Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you agree with the governor's call for another one-year delay to federalization?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 5

As of May 20, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

New Idol

Are there boundaries to declaring the next "American Idol" champ early? Apparently, not.

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Lee is new NMC Faculty Senate president. **PAGE 3**

Efforts to revive CK village as Saipan's capital pushed. **PAGE 6**

'Delay federalization further'

- Subcommittee doubts Nov. 28 implementation
- Multiple-entry visa for foreign workers pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At least five of the nine witnesses at the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife's oversight hearing on the implementation of Public Law 110-229 asked for a further delay in the Nov. 28, 2009 start of federalization transition or until Chinese and Russian tourists are included in the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

See DELAY on Page 4

US *lawmakers to visit* CNMI, *Guam in August*

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo has announced that members of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, which she currently chairs, will be visiting the CNMI and Guam in August.

Bordallo made the announcement prior to hearing testimony from nine witnesses on Tuesday's subcommittee hearing in Washington, D.C. on the implementation of Public Law 110-229

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan listens to testimonies during the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife hearing on the implementation of Public Law 110-229. To the right of Sablan are Rep. Donna Christensen of the U.S. Virgin Islands and Rep. Eni Faleomavaega of American Samoa. The hearing was presided by subcommittee chair Rep. Madeleine Bordallo of Guam.

Fund to exclude adopted kids from beneficiaries list

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guerrero

The Retirement Fund will soon exclude adopted children from its list of members' beneficiaries after finding out that a large number of its current members'

See FUND on Page 4

Suspect arrested in Tanapag murder

Suspect allegedly bragged: 'I just knocked out Papa-san'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police arrested Tuesday night the suspect in the killing of a businessman during a robbery inside his store in Tanapag Sunday night.

A detective stated in his report that prior to the attack, a witness saw the suspect, Ezra Kaainoa De Leon Guerrero, put on a black ski mask and say: "This is good for Papa-san, no!" Police said the witness told investigators the suspect appeared intoxicated.

See SUSPECT on Page 4

3rd Annual

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NOTICE TO ALL CURRENT AND FORMER GARMENT WORKERS

The former Garment Oversight Board (GOB) has established a Garment Workers Trust Fund (GWTF) to assist garment workers who are still located on Saipan with any hardships resulting from their former employment as garment workers.

For example, if you are a former garment worker and are unable to depart Saipan in order to return to your country of origin, this is one of the hardships for which you may apply to the GWTF in order to receive assistance with your repatriation expenses.

Applications for assistance will be reviewed by a panel of three trustees consisting of the former board members of the GOB and approved on a case by case basis, based on a demonstrated need or hardship which is occasioned by an applicant's former status as a garment worker. The maximum amount of any such assistance to any one applicant shall be limited by the trustees and will only be exceeded in cases of exceptional hardship. What constitutes exceptional hardship shall be a determination solely within the discretion of the GWTF trustees.

You may apply for this assistance *ONLY* by submitting a readable written application to the GWTF, there is no special form, but your written application must:
1 - identify the applicant,
2 - describe the type of hardship the applicant is experiencing,
3 - state the name of the last garment factory applicant worked for,
4 - the date applicant stopped working as a garment worker, and
5 - include how applicant can be contacted so the GWTF may inform the applicant if his/her application has been approved.

Please identify yourself and your former employment as a garment worker as accurately as possible. If the GWTF cannot verify your status as a former garment worker, your application will not be acted upon. Applications may be submitted in Chinese or English.

SEND YOUR WRITTEN APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE TO:
GWTF
P.O. Box 505943
Saipan, MP 96950

Applications for this assistance shall only be accepted until August 15th, 2009.

UPON APPROVAL APPLICANTS MUST PRESENT ADEQUATE AND RELIABLE IDENTIFICATION TO VERIFY THAT THEY ARE THE APPLICANT.

THE GWTF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THE FORM OF ASSISTANCE THAT WILL BE PROVIDED TO APPLICANTS.

通告致所有现或前成衣厂工人

前成衣监管委员会曾建立一个成衣工人基金， 目的是帮助那些前就职于成衣厂因遭受困境而依然停留塞班的工人.

比如, 你是前成衣厂工人,无法离开塞班,返回自己的国家. 这样的一种困境, 你或许可以向成衣监管委员会提出申请, 寻求回国费用方面的帮助.

包括前成衣监管委员会董事会成员的三位委托人组成工作小组负责申请审核工作. 所有获得批准的申请将根据每个个案情况， 也基于证明有帮助的需要, 或遇到的困境是因为申请人是原成衣厂工人的身份. 所有申请者提出要求帮助的最大金额应该由受托人设定限额, 不可以超过规定的金额, 除非申请人遭遇到不同寻常的困境. 如何定义不同寻常困境将完全由成衣监管委员会受托人斟酌决定.

你或许有资格提出申请帮助. 唯一的办法是向成衣监管委员会递交一份能阅读的书面申请. 申请没有特别格式, 但书面申请必须包括:
1 - 申请人身份
2 - 申请人描述一下目前所经历的困境
3 - 申请人最后工作的成衣厂名字
4 - 申请人离开成衣厂的日期
5 - 如果申请获得批准,成衣监管委员会如何联系申请人

请尽量准确说明自己的身份和前就职于成衣厂的身份. 如果成衣监管委员会无法核实你是否是前成衣厂工人, 将不能受理申请. 所有的申请必须是中文或英文形式.
书面申请可以邮寄到:
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P.O. Box 505943
Saipan MP 96950

寻求帮助的申请截止日为2009年8月15日

获得批准的申请必须出示恰当的, 令人信服的身份证明以核实是申请者本人.

成衣监管委员会有权对申请人做出何种形式帮助的裁定.

Local

DURING HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK

Free group tours to sites

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Officials and staff of the Historic Preservation Office gather for a photo session after the signing by Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos of a proclamation declaring May 22-31 as Historic Preservation Week yesterday. Sitting beside Inos is HPO Director Pedro Sablan Jr.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Historic Preservation Office will be offering free tours to groups upon request during the observance of Historic Preservation Week on May 22-31.

HPO Director Pedro Sablan Jr., along with the rest of his staff, led the proclamation signing, with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos issuing the declaration in the absence of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. Last year's theme, "This Place Matters," will be adopted again this year due to popular demand.

Archeologist Ronnie Rogers said they would also provide maps and directions to those who prefer self-guided tours.

In preparation for this year's activities, HPO staff cleaned several sites around Saipan, Rogers said.

Presentations will be also offered to various schools, also by request.

Another highlight is a presentation on the cultural resources of Kalabera Cave, scheduled to be held last night, May 20, at the American Memorial Park. Invited speakers were Genevieve Cabrera and Marilyn Swift.

Cabrera is a former staff historian with HPO and knowledgeable about the cultural resources at the cave while Swift is with the Saipan-based Swift and Harper Archeological Resources Consulting that had done scientific analysis in the area.

Other historical sites are House of Taga on Tinian, Bapot Archeological Site in LaoLao Bay, Sailing Proas LaoLao Kattan, Camp Susupe Interment Center, Japanese Hospital, As Nieves Quarry, Waherak Maihar, Managaha Island, 20mm Cannon Pill Box, Invasion Beaches, Seaplane Ramp, Convento Rota, and Mochong Latte Village.

The proclamation underscored the importance of understanding the role of history in CNMI people's lives. It also appreciates the contributions made by individuals who preserve the heritage that shaped the CNMI as a people.

"The protection and preservation of these sites, buildings and landscapes provide educational, scientific and economic benefits for the CNMI citizens," the proclamation said.

HPO staff Ton Guerrero read the English translation of the proclamation while executive director David Omar of the Chamorro-Carolinian Language Policy Commission read the Carolinian translation. Community youth leader Herman Tudela read the Chamorro translation.

HPO, under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, was created to educate the public about the disciplines of archeology and historic preservation.

In 1949, the National Trust Historic Preservation was founded as a non-profit non-government organization that promotes preservation of cultural resources through individual and community efforts.

Rogers said it took about 30 years before the first Historic Preservation Week was held in 1973, making it a national celebration.

Free phone cards for troops in Kuwait

The CNMI's troops with the Echo Company in Kuwait will be receiving next week free phone cards for them to be able to contact their families back home.

The phone cards came from the Military Order of the Purple Heart through the Veterans and Military Affairs Office on Saipan.

VMAO Executive Officer Ruth A. Coleman turned over a total of 78 phone cards (one-hour calls) to Staff Sgt. Francisco Ada during the proclamation signing of Memorial Week (May19-25) at the Governor's Office last Tuesday.

Ada, along with Sgt. Royal Kelby, attended the proclamation ceremony with Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos signing the document before members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and spouses of those killed in action.

Ada and Kelby are part of the last group that is currently on a 12-day R&R.

The group will be joining Monday's Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

Asked about the situation of the 70-man troop from the CNMI, Ada said they are doing well. "Kuwait is a green zone, so we are safe there," he said.

Their battalion provides convoy and logistics escort to U.S. troops.

He said majority of Kuwaitis support the U.S. military.

For the moment, Ada said they are enjoying their vacation with their families before going back to Kuwait next week.

The CNMI reservists were activated last year. They will be completing their assignment in August.

"Everybody misses home," said Ada, who has two kids, an 18-year old son and 15-year old daughter. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

NMC Library belies disposal of donated items

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College library services emphasized that it only disposes of materials that are unnecessary, duplicative, obsolete, damaged, or worn out, belying reports that it had thrown out some donated items to make room for its library and archives collections.

NMC library director Herbert Rosario said yesterday that the CNMI Archives office preserves many materials by microfilming and microfiching them.

"The process of building and maintaining a library's or an archives' collections requires that the library dispose of materials that are unnecessarily duplicated, obsolete, damaged, worn out or unnecessary for research, study or other needs," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Saipan Tribune had been informed that some "donations" at the campus library had been improperly disposed of, including some documentary videos of a television outfit.

Rosario said that as far as video documentaries are concerned, the Pacific Collection of the NMC Library is keeping the materials. He specifically cited as "intact" the MCV News donation by Bruce Lloyd, which is being displayed at the library.

"If you are referring to the MCV News which Bruce Lloyd donated, then these items are in the Pacific Collection. The other donated items that include newspaper content are all available electronically," he added.

The director said the college is highly appreciative of any materials that are donated to the Library or to the CNMI Archives.

"The college staff meticulously collects, organizes, preserves and provides access in a central location to materials that are of high value to community members. The CNMI Archive encourages the use of its materials by faculty, students, alumni and others to stimulate their learning and to supplement their teaching," he added.

Rosario said all materials are kept in the Library or the Archives but due to the lack of limited display areas, some are in boxes but the reference information is readily available to the community and the students.

Donations

NMC also donates some materials to the CNMI Joeten Kiyu Public Library, youth centers, and some neighboring islands as a way to dispose of old stocks. Some of these archive records include:

- *Legal Values:* Laws & Resolutions of the Legislature, Executive Orders, Judicial Decision, Attorney General's Decision, Journals of the CNMI Legislature, Journals of the CNMI Constitution, Deeds to Real Property, Covenant Negotiation Papers;
- *Historical Values:* Minutes of Boards, Commissions & Cabinet Meetings, Annual Reports of all CNMI Government Departments & Agencies, Reports of Historical events in the NMI, History of the Spanish, German, and Japanese Administration in the Marianas, WWII in the Marianas 1944, Annual Reports of the Trust Territory Government'
- *Political Values:* Election results, including lists of candidates, actions of the government, political developments on the islands, Covenant negotiations and Constitutional Convention;
- *Administrative Records:* Land (Japanese) records, medical, war claims, payment, contracts.

No new position

Rosario said the Archives, the Pacific Collection, and the Library have always been historically separated but these were joined in recent years under the Library Services and Programs Department because of space issues.

He said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez recently separated them again but no new position was created with the separation.

Saipan Tribune learned that Rosario has always held the position title of Archives director for more than 20 years.

Lee is new NMC Faculty Senate president

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The acting Business Department chair of the Northern Marianas College was named the new Faculty Senate president and will sit as the faculty's representative on the Board of Regents.

Larry Lee, who has been with the college for almost a decade, bested Barbara Merfalen during Tuesday's election.

On the vice presidency, Merfalen prevailed against nominee Frank Sobolewski, who is the outgoing faculty group president.

Named as the group's secretary was Joan Dubrall.

Lee will serve a one-year term. He is also entitled to hold the position for two consecutive terms.

Other elected members of the Faculty Senate this year are Sobolewski, Lyte Chappap, Marian Tudela, Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, and Judy Torres.

Lee will both represent the instruction and non-instructional faculty that numbers about 60. He is expected to attend the next Board of Regents' assembly as the group's honorary member. Lee was the college's former marketing and public relations officer prior to becoming an instructor.

Lee vowed yesterday to pursue the "unfinished" business of the previous faculty leadership. Topping his list is long-term contracts for faculty and employees of the college.

All NMC employees and staff are on two-year contracts that can be terminated or not renewed by the president, with or without cause. The Faculty Senate has for many years now been pushing for indefinite contracts to provide job security to all college personnel.

Lee said he will negotiate for a "long-term" employment contract if the management is not agreeable to the indefinite contract proposal.

The new faculty leader also wants changes in existing college policies such as the grievance procedures. At present, complaints and concerns go through four stages before reaching the college president's table.

Sobolewski expressed confidence in Lee's capability to work in the best interest of the group and the college.

Besides the "long-term" contract for employees, he hopes to see the faculty's input on the setting of clear goals for the NMC president by the Board of Regents.

"It is also my hope that the faculty, staff, regents, and administration would come together to do the needed improvements in the college curriculum and instructions," he added.

Sobolewski served as the Faculty Senate leader since February 2007. He served two full terms in that position.

Alien worker leaves barracks, not heard of since January

An alien worker left his employment in January 2009 and has not been heard of since then.

The Department of Labor referred to the Division of Immigration the case of Crispin M. Macanas, an employee of JM's Nursery, for further action.

Macanas was found to have abandoned his employment without justification.

Labor administrative hearing officer Herbert D.Soll said JM's Nursery owes Macanas $357.52 and that the company submitted checks in that amount to be kept in Labor's file until such time he is found.

Soll ordered JM's Nursery to submit a repatriation ticket for the worker to return to the Philippines and to give the ticket to the Labor hearing officer by May 25, 2009.

The hearing officer said investigation showed that Macanas left his job on Jan. 8, 2009, took his personal belongings from the barracks and has not been seen or heard from since.

Soll said the Labor investigator exhausted all means to find Macanas.

Soll said the worker has three pending paychecks for his final pay and termination compensation and he has not claimed them.

The hearing officer said Macanas is out of immigration status, has no transfer rights, and is subject to deportation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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FUND

From Page 1

beneficiaries are classified as adopted, most of whom were applied after they retired.

A board committee is now reviewing a resolution on the non-recognition of post-retirement adoptions and it is expected to recommend the resolution's approval at the board of trustees' next meeting.

The resolution, once approved by the board, would require a public hearing on the matter.

At present, Fund policy does not bar adopted children from being declared beneficiaries by members and the board believes some retirees are abusing this loophole.

Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero said yesterday that the proposed resolution will stop the practice of many retirees who adopt children of family members for purposes of adding them as "retirement beneficiaries."

"Why are you adopting the kids of your family members? We're seeing that somebody is doing an indecent proposal [at the expense of the Fund]," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

"We need to stop this practice because it affects the Fund's interest and we need to protect it," he said.

Guerrero said they found that a lot of members are circumventing the law by creating adoptions.

"The Fund is not designed for that purpose. We want to make sure that we're keeping the same family structure intact in applying for beneficiaries," he said.

The chairman disclosed that the decision to exclude adopted children is a mandate from the court.

"This is one of the issues tackled in court and we need to take action. This is actually a recommended step for the Fund to take," he said. "The court says this is one way to move forward."

DELAY

From Page 1

Subcommittee chair Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo and member CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan, along with some of the witnesses, raised doubts on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's ability to set up operations in the CNMI and effectively include Chinese and Russian tourists in the special visa waiver program by November.

The start of transition to federal system was pushed back by 180 days, from June 1 to Nov. 28, 2009, the maximum allowed by law.

"I can't believe [that] with a $14 billion military buildup on Guam…we need any more security than that. What other state or part of our nation has such a buildup in its history?" Bordallo asked, referring to additional security measures needed by DHS to include China and Russia from the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program.

When Bordallo asked CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on his view about the implementation of P.L. 110-229, the governor said: "It's not helping our economy at all. It's creating uncertainty that drives away potential investors. It's not really working well."

Ranking Republican member Rep. Henry E. Brown of South Carolina also asked Fitial about his recommended delay in the federalization implementation date.

"I'm asking for a full year delay [from Nov. 28, 2009]," Fitial told Brown who will be traveling to the CNMI along with other subcommittee members in August. ***(See sidebar)***

Multiple-entry visa

One of the witnesses, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president James T. Arenovski, asked for the granting of a multiple-entry visa for transitional guest workers in the CNMI.

"Any foreign worker who's granted federal status, including as a transitional worker, should be issued a multiple-entry visa while within the Commonwealth for the same reasons I have described in relation to foreign investors. It is untenable to grant legal status and not grant the ability to exit and re-enter," Arenovski said in his oral testimony at the hearing.

He said granting "green cards" to foreign workers is not the answer to the CNMI's labor issue under a federal system.

David Cohen, a former deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, reiterated during the hearing that making long-term guest workers eligible for green cards would be the best way to stabilize the islands' workforce.

Fitial, for his part, wants a delay on any discussions on the future status of long-term guest workers, set by law to occur no later than May 2010.

"I don't think we should give citizenship to anybody who comes in and work for long term," Fitial said when asked by Sablan whether he thinks workers who are needed by the CNMI economy should be kept in the CNMI without an improved immigration status.

Nikolao Pula, acting deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, also asked Congress to extend the statutory deadline for the report on long-term foreign workers by one year to May 8, 2011.

He said this is to allow for time to gather sufficient data and other factors to complete the report.

Pula, just like other witnesses, pointed to the importance of nurturing the CNMI economy.

'More onerous than US visa waiver program'

Richard Barth, DHS acting principal deputy assistant secretary for policy, said DHS is currently analyzing the comments received on the interim final rule on the visa waiver program.

"At this time, I'm not at liberty to discuss what, if any, changes might result from the analysis," Barth told the subcommittee.

The oversight hearing lasted three hours starting at 10am in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, or from midnight to 3am on Wednesday on Saipan.

Bordallo, Sablan and other witnesses took turns emphasizing that during deliberations on the legislation, the purpose for the special visa waiver program was to facilitate travel, but DHS' regulations issued on Jan. 16 made it more difficult for tourists to travel to the Marianas.

"I am deeply troubled that under the department's regulations, the newly created Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program is actually more onerous in some respects than the mainland visa waiver program," said Bordallo.

Fitial, Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, Guam Vice Speaker Benjamin F. Cruz, DFS Pacific Division director Jim Beighly and Arenovski asked for further delay in the implementation of the visa waiver program until such time DHS sets up additional layer of security to allow Chinese and Russian tourists to enter the Marianas without visas.

Before reading a summary of his formal testimony, Fitial told the subcommittee that he just received "bad news from home this morning," referring to the CNMI's general obligation bonds rating, which was downgraded from Ba3 to B2 by Moody's Investor Service due to several key factors that include the demise of the garment industry.

Fitial, in his oral testimony, said the CNMI will suffer from a loss of close to $57 million in direct economic impact and over $185 million in indirect economic impact if Chinese and Russian tourists are excluded from the visa waiver program.

The Guam governor, for his part, said the federal regulations should allow Guam to tap into a vast tourism market such as China, especially now that travel from the main tourism market of Japan has been slowing down.

$5M versus $95M needed

Sablan asked DHS' Barth to confirm the department's budget for the federalization of the CNMI.

DHS has estimated that it will need over $97 million to fulfill its responsibilities under P.L. 110-229 but had only been budgeted some $5 million.

President Obama's proposed FY 2010 budget also does not specifically fund the buildup of CNMI's borders.

"I want to know, where will the remaining $92 million come from?" Sablan asked Barth, who said there will be reprogramming of funds within DHS for FY 2010.

Fitial asked in his oral testimony, "Is the Department of Homeland Security ready to implement P.L. 110-229? The Commonwealth is concerned DHS will not be prepared on Nov. 28, 2009 to enforce the law."

He also asked the subcommittee to obtain current and detailed information regarding DHS' implementation plan, including the funds already expended, the additional funds needed, and the projected timetable for their expenditure.

"I humbly ask for your [subcommittee] to allow your people, your neighbor to live as Americans in prosperity, and not in poverty," Fitial said as he ended his oral testimony.

Sablan asked Barth whether DHS will hire from the current employees of the CNMI Division of Immigration, to which Barth said "yes."

Barth added that DHS will be hiring a total of 87 individuals over the next several years in the CNMI.

Panel 1 of the witnesses included Fitial, Camacho and Cruz, while panel 2 included Dr. David Gootnick, director of the Government Accountability Office's International Affairs Trade, Pula and Barth. Panel 3 consisted of Beighley, Cohen and Arenovski.

Bordallo asked Fitial whether the CNMI had problems with Russian and Chinese tourists who overstayed, to which Fitial said yes, but that the islands managed to find the overstaying Chinese tourists and deported them.

Camacho said Guam had never encountered such a problem.

Sablan asked Bordallo to consider holding another oversight hearing prior to the Nov. 28 implementation date.

"We will keep an eye on this," Bordallo said.

Other subcommittee members present at the hearing were Delegate Donna M. Christensen of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Delegate Eni Faleomavaega of American Samoa, Rep. Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii, Rep. Jason Chaffetz of Utah, and Rep. Dale Kildee of Michigan.

SUSPECT

From Page 1

The detective said a minor also saw De Leon Guerrero enter the New Star Market and hit twice with a piece of wood the back of 65-year-old Jae Soung Shim's head. The victim, also known as Papa-sang in the area, was reading something behind the cashier's counter at the time.

Police served De Leon Guerrero with an arrest warrant issued by Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo.

De Leon Guerrero, 25, a resident of Tanapag, was arrested for first-degree murder, armed robbery, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Govendo set no bail for the suspect's temporary liberty. The defendant was taken to court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing. Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered no bail as Govendo had earlier imposed. Wiseman set the preliminary hearing for May 27 at 9am.

Wiseman appointed the Public Defender's Office to represent the defendant in the case.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric David said yesterday the victim sustained multiple skull fractures.

David said Guam chief medical examiner Aurelio Espinola concluded that the fractures were a result of repeated blows to the head.

David said the Crime Stoppers Hotline Program received an anonymous call last Monday at 9am, relating to the murder at the New Star Market, during which several names of individuals were identified.

Following up on the tip, DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau personnel interviewed all the persons whose named were mentioned, leading to the arrest of De Leon Guerrero.

David said a canvas search was conducted near the crime scene and a 2.8 feet long tangan-tangan, a black long sleeve sweater with hood, a black ski mask, and two cases of Budweiser were recovered.

About $300 to $400 was also missing from the cash register, police learned.

Detective Christopher Leon Guerrero stated in his report that based on a witness' account, the suspect was seen Sunday night picking up a firewood stick and walking toward the New Star Market.

When the suspect reached the front of the store, he put on a black ski mask but immediately removed it when a red truck passed by.

When the truck was gone, De Leon Guerrero allegedly put the mask on again, slowly walked inside the store, and hit the victim twice on the head with the tangan-tangan stick.

The suspect was later seen handing out bills to children at a house near the store. A witness heard the defendant saying that he just knocked out Papa-san.

De Leon Guerrero was later seen carrying a case of beer and had a drinking session with some people at a basketball court, which is also located a few blocks away from the store.

Shim was found by customers lying behind the cashier's counter inside the New Star Market along Tanapag Avenue Sunday night.

Shim was no longer breathing when he was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was pronounced dead at 1:08am Monday.

Shim was staying alone in the store's premises. His immediate family members are reportedly in Korea. His daughter, who is in Michigan, is set to arrive on Saipan anytime this week.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008.

P.L. 110-229 places the CNMI under the federal immigration system and creates a Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program that will take effect on Nov. 28, 2009, instead of the original implementation date of June 1, 2009.

"We will be visiting both the CNMI and Guam in August so be prepared for our visit," said Bordallo.

She said ranking Republican member, Rep. Henry E. Brown Jr. of South Carolina, will be joining the trip ahead.

CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan is also a member of the subcommittee.

If the August trip moves forward as planned, it will be the second time that members of the subcommittee will be traveling to the CNMI in less than two years.

On Aug. 15, 2007, the U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs then chaired by Rep. Donna Christensen of the U.S. Virgin Islands held a first ever congressional hearing on Saipan to obtain testimony on H.R. 3079 or the Northern Mariana Islands Immigration, Security and Labor Act, ISLA.

ISLA later became part of an omnibus bill that is now the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008.

Besides Christensen, other subcommittee members who traveled to Saipan for the 2007 historic hearing were Bordallo and American Samoa Rep. Eni Faleomavaega.

The planned August 2009 trip of the subcommittee will come ahead of the Nov. 28 scheduled start of the transition to federalization in the CNMI, unless the implementation date is further delayed by legislative action as requested at the hearing by CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho, Guam Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, DFS Pacific Division director Jim Beighly, and Saipan Chamber of Commerce president James T. Arenovski.

They were five of nine witnesses invited to testify at the hearing, which lasted three hours, starting at 10am on Tuesday in Washington, D.C. (from 12 midnight to 3am Wednesday on Saipan).

The other witnesses were Dr. David Gootnick, director of the Government Accountability Office's International Affairs Trade; Nikolao Pula, acting deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs; Richard C. Barth, acting principal deputy assistant secretary for policy at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and David Cohen, a former deputy assistant secretary for Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

'Exempt small businesses from gross revenue tax'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The chairman of the House Commerce and Tourism Committee has pre-filed a bill exempting businesses with annual total gross revenue of less than $50,000 from paying gross revenue taxes.

While the tax exemption will result in revenue loss for the government, Rep. Joseph C. Reyes said the funds not paid in gross revenue taxes would nevertheless be spent in the local economy and likely result in additional taxable income.

In a phone interview yesterday, Reyes said he'd rather see businesses that are not making much money to stay in operation rather than shut down operation altogether.

"This bill gives them an opportunity to continue their business… This is to alleviate hardship," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Reyes added that his bill is patterned after Guam's Dave Santos Law.

House Bill 16-248 proposes the following tax schedule:

- $0 to $50,000 — No tax
- $50,001 to $100,000 — 1% of the amount over 0
- $100,001 to $200,000 — 2% of the amount over 0
- $200,001 to $300,000 — 3% of the amount over 0
- $300,001 to $400,000 — 4% of the amount over 0
- $400,001 and over — 5% of the amount over 0

Reyes said Public Law 12-32 or the Investment Incentive Act of 2000 encourages the development of additional and expansion businesses by offering developers tax incentives to build, expand and operate projects. But the incentives are limited to certain types of businesses and based on amo8nt of incentives.

He said small businesses are also critical to the CNMI's economic recovery and strength but "there are no incentives for small businesses in the Commonwealth to keep their doors open, especially with the economic downturn felt worldwide."

"The Legislature therefore finds it in the best interest of the CNMI to exempt businesses with annual total gross revenue of less than $50,000 from paying gross revenue tax," he said in the bill.

H.B. 16-248, pre-filed on Tuesday, requires the secretary of the Department of Finance to promulgate regulations, revising and creating forms and other related documents necessary to implement the provisions of the bill pursuant to the Commonwealth Administrative Procedure Act.

Ogumoro insists that transfer of land to daughter not fraudulent

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety range master Ambrosio T. Ogumoro said the transfer of his land to his daughter was not a means to circumvent paying for some $3.7 million in damages he owes for a fishing boat oil spill.

Ogumoro, through lawyer Douglas F. Cushnie, said the transfer of the lot to his daughter was not a gift but a business transaction made for good and valuable consideration.

The daughter provided new value to the land for the benefit of Ogumoro, said Cushnie in the range master's answer to the U.S. government's lawsuit.

The U.S. government sued Ogumoro in February, alleging that Ogumoro fraudulently transferred his land on Capital Hill to his daughter so it won't be used to pay for the $3.7 million he owes the U.S. government. The U.S. government asked the court to void the transaction.

The U.S. government also asked the court to bar Ogumoro's daughter from disposing of or diminishing the value of the land, to seize the property, and to auction it off so proceeds will be used to pay off Ogumoro's debt to the U.S.

In Ogumoro's response to the lawsuit, Cushnie said the transfer was made in a good faith effort to rehabilitate Ogumoro.

"There was no intent to hinder, delay or defraud any creditor by the transfer alleged herein, but rather to permit Ogumoro to pay his debts," Cushnie stressed.

According to the complaint, in June 2004, Ogumoro was involved in the discharge of oil into the waters and adjoining shorelines of the CNMI and the U.S. The defendant allegedly failed to take actions with respect to oil spill removal activities.

"As a result, the U.S. incurred costs and damages to remove the oil spill," the complaint said.

In May 2006, the U.S. government, on behalf of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, sued Ogumoro and two others to recover the oil spill cleanup costs.

Ogumoro and his co-defendants failed to defend the case. As a result, the court issued a default judgment in December 2006, finding the defendants jointly liable to pay $3.4 million plus interest.

The default judgment created a lien in favor of the U.S. government on all of Ogumoro's properties.

Ex-BOE chair wants to be mayor

Roman Benavente, a former chairman of the Board of Education, will seek the mayoralty seat for Saipan in November.

The independent candidate said his decision to run for office was motivated by his desire to help the youth and children of the island.

Benavente had also served as board chairman of the CNMI Scholarship Office and served the San Vicente Elementary School as its PTA president for many years.

As former member of the Education Board for two terms, Benavente served as the body's chairman for four years after becoming vice chair during his first term.

He said there's a great need to focus on the young generation—the future of the Commonwealth.

Incumbent Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela is now serving his final term in office.

Benavente lauded Tudela's commitment to community programs and for sustaining the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance program, which provides scholarship grants to qualified students.

"That's one of the priority programs I want to continue and pursue," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Benavente counts among his achievements the many progress seen at public schools such as building improvements through the use of CIP money, the implementation of the Highly Qualified Teachers policy that was adopted in 2006, and the formulation of the PSS standards and benchmarks and testing guides and evaluations. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

Covenant urges members to respect GOP primary

Gregorio M. Camacho, chairman of the Covenant Party, is urging the Covenant Party faithful to respect the GOP primary this year.

"I urge all Covenant Party members to respect the Republican Party primary process and not interfere to skew the normal result of such a primary among Republicans," said Camacho.

Camacho, also known as "Kachuma," said the Covenant Party should not artificially distort the results to favor one side over the other.

"We want to see the real results, the real strength of the candidates," said Camacho.

Camacho said he didn't want the Covenant Party to speculate on who the weaker or stronger candidate might be, or which GOP slate would be better for the Covenant Party in the general or runoff election.

"We will stick to our plans no matter who wins the GOP primary," said Camacho.

In a Covenant Party meeting last week, a party official said he believed it would be unseemly for the Covenant party to support a GOP ticket in the primary, only to oppose that same ticket in the general or run-off election.

"We don't want to play those games. We will compete honorably," said Alvaro Santos. ***(PR)***

It's Graduation Time!
Having a hard time choosing a gift for that Special Graduate?
Reward them with a gift as bright as their future.
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HTC TOUCH
$299.00**
CDMA TOUCH-SCREEN SMART PHONE
NOKIA 1680
$65.00*
GSM CAMERA PHONE DUAL-BAND
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Efforts to revive CK village as Saipan's capital pushed

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As part of efforts to revitalize and modernize Chalan Kanoa, various government agencies are pushing efforts to revive the district as Saipan's capital.

This idea was brought up during the presentation yesterday of the first ever Neighborhood Revitalization and Resource Directory to acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos by representatives of different agencies. The directory, which will be distributed to all government offices and major establishments, contains basic information about government agencies such as the kind of permits and licenses they issue and the services they provide the public.

"In the olden days, Chalan Kanoa used to be the driving town. Now it is being abandoned," said former PSS commissioner William Torres, who is a consultant for the project.

He said this should be a major subject of interest because Chalan Kanoa is where many of Saipan's historical assets are located.

"Honestly, I don't even know where the sugar factory was located,' he said.

Torres said the Neighborhood Watch Task Force was created to put under one roof all government agencies so they could begin communicating on how to revitalize Chalan Kanoa.

The project is being spearheaded by the Saipan Municipal Council headed by chair Antonia M. Tudela, vice chair/secretary Ramon B. Camacho, and councilor Felipe Q. Atalig.

Torres said reviving Chalan Kanoa from its present image as a "ghost town" to a traditional center of the island is just one part of revitalization efforts for the entire island.

The project will be extended throughout inner villages, enclaves, and hamlets on Saipan—with Chalan Kanoa as the starting point, he added.

Activities will include pothole repairs, junk vehicle and scrap material removal, debris removal, street sweeping, graffiti abatement, vacant lot cleanups, animal control management, storm water management, land use violations, zoning violations, fire safety inspections and other cleanup and beatification activities.

Inos advised the task force to look for a possible way to avail of the stimulus funding since some of the projects will need money to become a reality.

He said the next step would be implementation.

The Neighborhood Watch Task Force believes that this initiative would eventually lead to a sustainable local capacity at the village level for residents to participate in preserving and promoting the unique historic assets of the community.

Another goal is to promote environmental stewardship and enhance the physical and cultural characteristics of the villages in partnership with local government agencies, nongovernment groups, and the business community.

In attendance during yesterday's directory presentation were officials and representatives of the Zoning Board, Office of the Mayor, Bureau of Environmental Health, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., and Department of Public Safety.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos receives a copy of the Neighborhood Revitalization and Resources Directory from Antonia M. Tudela, chairwoman of the 10th Saipan Municipal Council.

PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

Outgoing Saipan World Resort general manager Hong Chul Shin, center, receives a plaque on May 19, 2009, from Marianas Visitors Authority board member Yoichi Matsumura, left, and MVA managing director Perry Tenorio in recognition of his work on behalf of the tourism industry in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Woman sues hotel after slipping on wet floor in restaurant outlet

A woman is suing the owner of Saipan World Resort for injuries she sustained when she allegedly slipped and fell at the beverage counter of the hotel's restaurant.

Bernadita C. Aldan sued World Resort Corp., owner of the hotel, in federal court for negligence. Her husband, Miguel Aldan, joined as coplaintiff and is suing the defendant for loss of consortium.

The Aldan couple, through the O'Connor law firm, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order the defendant to pay them damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Saipan Tribune repeatedly contacted Saipan World Resort yesterday afternoon for comment, but no one answered the phone.

According to the complaint, on Dec. 29, 2007 at 7:20am, Bernadita C. Aldan was a guest at a Saipan World Resort's restaurant for breakfast. On her way to get a drink, she slipped and fell down near the beverage counter.

The complaint alleged that there was water on the floor by the beverage counter, which Mrs. Aldan did not see as there was no sign warning of the condition. Mrs. Aldan fell on her back and her left knee sustained a cut.

When the floor supervisor came over to assist Mrs. Aldan, he allegedly admitted to Mrs. Aldan that there was a drainage under the beverage counter and that the water had come from the drainage.

The complaint stated that the supervisor further admitted that he had been asking the hotel's maintenance department to fix the problem, to no avail.

World Resort, the complaint said, was well aware that there was water on the floor by its beverage counter in the restaurant.

"Therefore it knew or should have known that the restaurant floor was wet and slippery. However, with reckless indifference to the rights of its guests and invitees, including Mrs. Aldan, the defendant took no precautions to either warn guests or to make the restaurant less slippery or otherwise less dangerous," according to the lawsuit.

The fall allegedly caused Mrs. Sablan to suffer severe pain on her left leg, left knee, right leg, shoulder and lower back. She also had numbness on her right leg, right and left toes, and locked knees.

"Mrs. Aldan's injuries required physical therapy and medical attention for several months. Mrs. Aldan is still recovering from her injuries," the complaint said.

As a result of the injuries suffered by Mrs. Aldan, the complaint alleged that Mr. Aldan "has been deprived of the care, companionship, aid, society and services of his wife." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT MASAJI NAKAMOTO IS NO LONGER CONNECTED WITH ANAKS RESORT DEVELOPMENT, INC., NOR ITS AFFILIATES AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF APRIL 20, 2009. ANY TRANSACTION ENTERED AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE WILL NOT BE HONORED BY MANAGEMENT AND WILL BE CONSIDERED NULL AND VOID.

PSS tops Fund debtor list with $10.3M owed

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Among autonomous agencies in the CNMI government, the Public School System tops the debtor list of the Retirement Fund, and is projected to owe as much as $10.3 million by end of the fiscal year in September.

This was disclosed by the Fund's comptroller, David Demapan, during Tuesday's board meeting.

Second on the list of outstanding Fund debtors is the Northern Marianas College, with $4.7 million owed the Fund this fiscal year.

Both agencies are classified key departments by the government and are paying the Fund at 11 percent rate.

Another cash-strapped agency, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., owes $1.7 million, while the Commonwealth Ports Authority so far owes $479,000 in employer contributions. The Marianas Visitors Authority? $367,000.

The Department of Public Lands is another department with arrears, owing $101,000 in employer contributions to the Fund.

Demapan also reported that the Tinian Municipal Treasurer is behind on its payments, with a total standing debt of $1.5 million at present.

The comptroller said all payments being made are applied first to interest before the principal amount. He said the balance of the receivables for autonomous agencies is $19.2 million—principal plus interest in FY 2008, while $610,000 just for interest in FY 2009.

The Fund board of trustees has passed a resolution preventing members from retiring if they are delinquent in their contributions.

In the case of some agencies, contribution payments are made in full for individual employees who wish to retire from service.

DFS and Take Care/FHP are named MMAC title sponsors

Duty Free Shoppers and Take Care/FHP will become title sponsors for this weekend's 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer.

According to the 2009 MMAC Committee, DFS has donated $3,000 for the cause, qualifying it to be declared a title sponsor for the single largest fundraising event in the CNMI. DFS has traditionally been a title sponsor for the MMAC.

Take Care/FHP, on the other hand, will sponsor the traditional dinner held in honor of cancer survivors and cancer patients in the CNMI at the 2009 MMAC. They will also provide the medallions and lanyards given out to cancer survivors and cancer patients during the opening ceremonies, acknowledging all who have been personally affected by cancer in the CNMI.

In addition, Take Care/FHP will be participating as a team in the 2009 MMAC.

"The 2009 MMAC Committee would like to congratulate DFS and Take Care/FHP for their generous contribution in the fight against cancer. All funds raised for the 2009 MMAC will be spent locally on cancer related programs and special services for cancer patients," the MMAC Committee said in a statement.

The 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held this Friday and Saturday, May 22-23, 2009, from 6pm to 6am, at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

Everyone is invited to attend this memorable event that honors those who have been personally affected by cancer in the CNMI.

All cancer survivors and those currently undergoing cancer treatment are also invited to attend the traditional dinner held in their honor at the 2009 MMAC. E-mail Nora Sablan at norasablan@gmail.com or call 235-0994 to confirm one's attendance. ***(PR)***

1st 'Made in the Marianas Festival' set

The Made in the Marianas Festival, to be held for the first time on June 24, is being organized by members of the Off the Beaten Path to showcase products created with the ingenuity, imagination, and originality of CNMI artists.

"Attendees of the Festival can expect to be charmed by locally produced fashion accessories, crafts, garments, gifts, and other products found uniquely in the Marianas," said Frankie M. Eliptico, OBP president.

Eliptico said the event will entice visitors to try delectable local dishes and beverages and introduce the local community to the concept of buying foods and products that are made locally, which in turn helps build sustainable communities.

One of the goals of the festival is to heighten awareness and appreciation of the CNMI Museum and its cultural and historic importance. During the festival, visitors are welcome to view current exhibits and displays currently featured at the NMI Museum of History and Culture.

A portion of the proceeds from the event will be donated to the museum and the planning of OBP's next event to benefit the CNMI Autism Society.

For a small entrance fee, $10, festival goers will enjoy a free glass of soda, wine or beer as they check out locally available products unique to the Marianas. Tickets to the Made in the Marianas Festival are available at the NMI Museum of History and Culture and with OBP members. For additional information, e-mail obpcnmi@gmail.com or contact Robert Hunter at the NMI Museum at 664-2160/4. ***(PR)***

Bartenders' and chefs' competitions coming up at 'Taste of the Marianas'

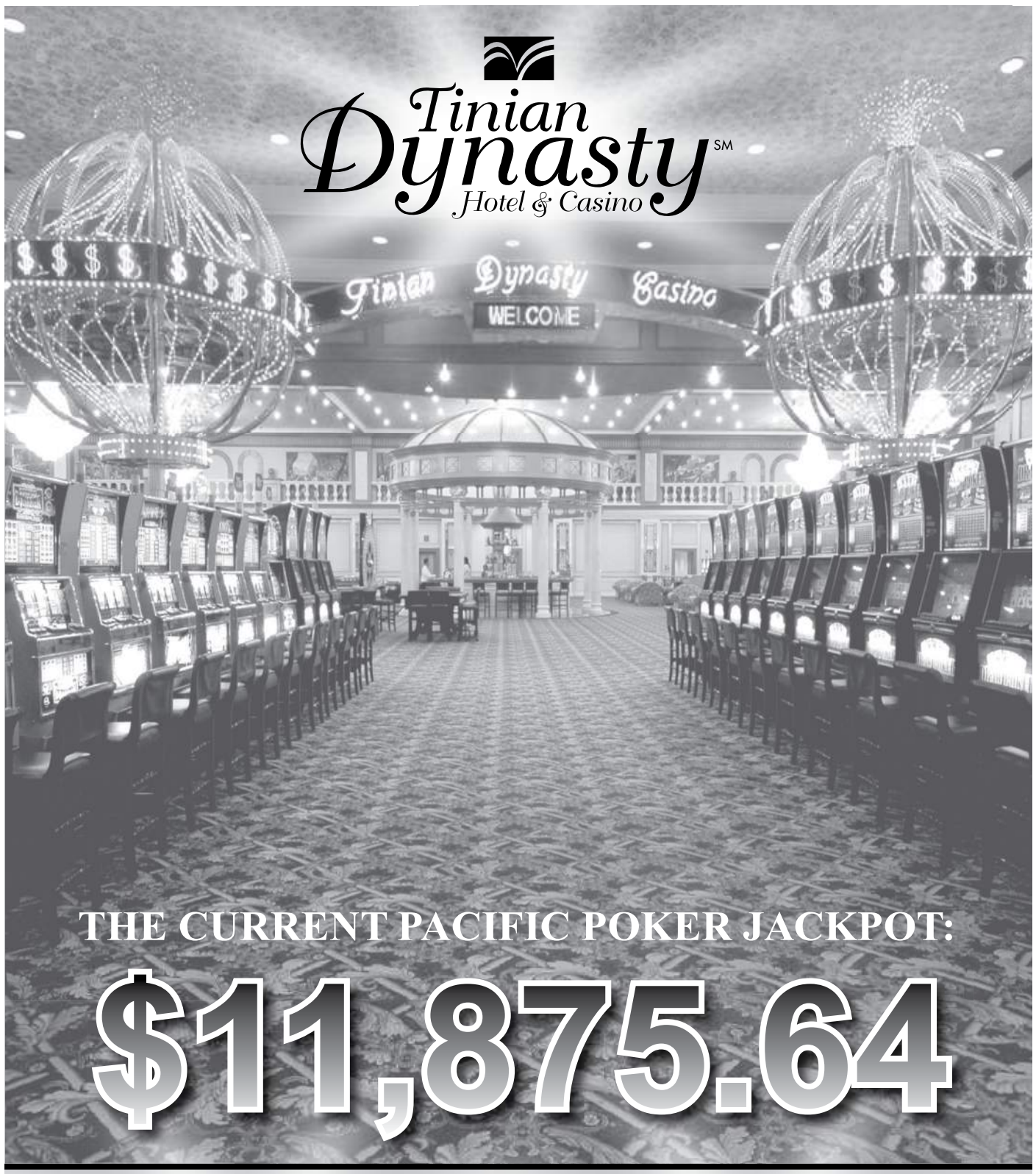
The Marianas Visitors Authority's monthlong Taste of the Marianas Food Festival & Beer Garden heats up over the next two weekends, with the Bartender Cocktail Competition slated for this Saturday, May 23, and the Chefs' Competition on closeout night, May 30.

The Bartender Cocktail Competition will judge competitors based on showmanship, taste, originality, audience impact, and neatness. Participants will have five minutes to prepare four drinks, one for display and three for tasting. All recipes will include Burnett's Vodka, and all entry cocktails must include Coco-Cola products only.

This Saturday's competition will start at 7pm. Winners will take home cash prizes, trophies, and other gifts. Bartender competitors will be Ramil Eustaquio of Wonderful Bar, Rio Therese and Ju Hyun Kang of Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Emil Gammad and Jovei San Juan of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, Glen Aquino and Jaymar Torres of Aqua Resort Club, Wilfredo Garon and Rommel Usi of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Jojo Solmarin of Moby Dick Restaurant, Kenneth Crusat of Country House Restaurant, Michael Lim of Country Bar, Jay Santos of The Flair, Marlon Pineda of Saipan World Resort, Amapola Castro of Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Bernardine Aquino of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The "Beef and Reef"-themed Chefs' Competition will be the highlight of the final Taste of the Marianas next Saturday, May 30. Participants will show off their skill and ingenuity in culinary creations using Certified Angus Beef® Flank Steak and Marianas Sweet Shrimp. Entries will be judged on appearance of the dishes; tenderness, texture, and taste; and presentation of the theme.

Earlier this month MVA, Triple J Five Star Wholesale and MARPAC awarded winners of the Beach Road Burger Cookoff based on four criteria: originality and recipe and ingredients, apparent ease of preparation, taste appeal and presentation. Roderick Lopez zipped to first place with combined total points of 77.60, while Arvin Ian Sales garnered second place with 72.60 points. Third place went to Doris Saures. The judges for the burger cookoff were F&B director Ranjeet Rajebhosale of Hyatt Regency Saipan; Pacific Islands Club Saipan executive chef Darren Ferrall; and general manager Kim Forrester of Triple J Five Star Wholesale. ***(MVA)***



NMC's summer registration begins

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's Summer 2009 semester began yesterday, May 20, and will continue to Friday, May 22, 2009. New students are required to take an English and Math placement test before they register. The schedule of placement tests and the Summer 2009 class schedule can be found online at www.nmcnet.edu.

The Summer 2009 semester is divided into four sessions: Regular Summer Session (nine-week courses, Extended Summer Session (twelve-week courses), Summer Session I (six-week courses) and Summer Session II (six-week courses starting July 6).

Those who have not applied for admission can still do so by visiting the College's Office of Admissions and Records (OAR) and picking up an application form. Application forms may also be downloaded from the NMC website.

Application for admissions will be accepted until the last day of Registration, which is May 22, 2009, provided that both placement tests have been taken.

For more information regarding admissions or registration, contact OAR at 234-5498 Ext 1537 or email mannyc@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

SUMMER 2009 DATES

May 20-22	Registration for 2009 Summer Session I (9am-6pm)
May 26-June 2	Registration for 2009 Summer Session II (9am-5pm)
May 26	First Day of Instruction (Summer Session I)
June 6	First Day of Instruction (Summer Session II)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Homework Assistance Program

If you are a year 5-12 student and would like some expert help and advice with your homework or study, take advantage of the Homework Assistance Program being offered by Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, funded through IMLS Competitive Grant.

Students can get help with their homework from the library's knowledgeable staff to strengthen their skills in academic areas. This program also helps young people to view homework as an opportunity to learn to work independently, complete projects on time, and feel positive about their accomplishments.

The after-school tutors might work with teachers to find out what kids are learning during the day and what homework assignments they have in order to provide tutoring to reinforce what is taught during the school day.

Interested parents and students are encouraged to register as early as possible due to limited seats. For more information, call 235-7322 or 235-7329. ***(PR)***

Palms Resort hosts Family Fun Night tomorrow

The Palms Resort on Pau Pau Beach, along with Suave, Dove and Axe, is hosting a Family Fun Night tomorrow, May 22, at the Palms. This free event starts at 6pm, and will be held at the poolside area. Part of the celebration will be dedicated to the official opening of the Palm's Observatory. It is the very first observatory, equipped with research quality telescopes, in Micronesia. This will be a wonderful opportunity for families to get out and enjoy Stargazing while learning a little bit about astronomy, and having a good time. In addition to the telescopes, face painting, treats and snacks will be offered at the poolside area. For more information about this event, you may call 322-3311. ***(PR)***

Puengin Inetnon resumes tomorrow

Puengin Inetnon will resume tomorrow, May 22, at 4:30pm-10pm at the Kagman Community Center Parking Lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market for food, drinks, snacks, clothing, arts and crafts. I-Candy will perform and the library's bookmobile will be present. Puengin Inetnon will be held every government payday Friday. The Kagman Komunidat Association is looking for vendors to sell produce and fish due to popular demand by customers. Other vendors are also invited. Call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. ***(PR)***

Kagman Flea Market resumes Saturday

The Kagman Saturday Flea Market will resume on Saturday, May 23, at 8am at the Kagman Community Center parking lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. Individuals can sell their used items for only $5 and will be provided with a tent and table. Come and sell your used item at the fastest growing village in the Marianas. Interested individuals can call the Kagman Post Office at 256-POST or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more info. ***(PR)***

Military ID card personnel visit

This is to let all military identification cardholders and all concerned that the 9th Mission Support Command ID Card personnel are currently on Saipan to issue new or renewal of Military ID card. They will be at the Army Reserve Center on Saipan until Friday, May 22, 2009. Their hours are from 8am-6pm.

For any questions or for further information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at 664-2650 or Maj. Greg Sablan at the Army Reserve Center at 322-6671. ***(PR)***

Kagman Elementary calendar of events

■ May 18-22: PSS Standard Based Assessment Week for the following students in each affected grade levels: 3rd, 4th, 5th grades and also to include CCLHS in 4th grade level. Students attendance is highly encouraged. SBA is from 8am to 10am, Monday-Friday.

■ Registration is ongoing for SY 2009-10 for Kinder to 5th grade students. Parents and guardians must provide the following: Birth certificate, health clearance, health insurance, map of their residence, and legal guardianship from the court in order for any student to be registered without the biological parents. ***(PR)***

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

1.) Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc.

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on the following Conditional Use Permit Application:

1. File 2008-1497 –Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc., Lot 409-1-R1

Date: May 21, 2009, Thursday
Time: 5:30 pm
Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above conditional use application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, May 22, 2009. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman.

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
POST OFFICE BOX 1547, ROTA, MP 96951
PHONE: 1.670.532.7242
EMAIL: email@rotacasino.com

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING FOR 25 MAY 2009.

DATE: **Wednesday, 27 May 2009**

TIME: **2:30 PM**

LOCATION: **Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building**
Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office
Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951

AGENDA

I. **Call to Order**
II. **Roll Call**
III. **Adoption of Agenda**
IV. **Adoption of Minutes**
V. **Chairman's Report**
VI. **Old Business**
FY 2010 Budget
VII. **New Business**
None
VIII. **Miscellaneous**
IX. **Adjournment**

*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

/s/ DIEGO M. SONGAO **25 May 2009**
Chairman

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 21, 1999

Wider tax exemptions get Commerce backing

Commerce Secretary Frankie B. Villanueva has expressed support for a plan by the Legislature to provide tax exemptions to businesses, which meet certain criteria to be imposed by the government in efforts to spur the local economy. Called the Qualifying Tax Certificate Program, the proposal is sponsored by Rep. Heinz Hofschneider to assist the private sector in dealing with the current economic crisis through a package of incentives. While the tax relief is similar to the proposed free trade zone in the Northern Marianas, Villanueva said the exemptions it offers are greater in value as it proposes up to 100 percent rebate. But the system of rebates and abatements "appears vague," he said in a letter to House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Karl T. Reyes who is currently reviewing the bill.

Customs officers charged

Charges of bribery and misconduct in public office were filed yesterday against two officers of the Division of Customs for allegedly receiving payoffs for the illegal entry of taxable merchandise into the CNMI. Based on the information filed in the Superior Court by Kevin Lynch, chief of the Criminal Division of the Attorney General's Office, Antonio S. Reyes and Benjamin S. Delos Reyes accepted the bribe from alleged smugglers in exchange for the release of such goods even without paying the corresponding taxes. Reyes and Delos Reyes were charged with one count each of bribery and one count each of misconduct in public office—criminal offenses punishable by up to five years imprisonment and a fine of up to $1,000.

May 21, 2001

Budget cut threatens five crucial programs in NMC

Funding allocation for the Northern Marianas College has been reduced by about 64 percent since 1999, which threatens continued operation of at least five of its educational programs, according to acting president Alvaro A. Santos. Mr. Santos criticized Public Law 10-66 which, he said, failed to adequately finance at least five educational programs currently offered at the College. Mr. Santos made the institution's sentiments known through a letter to Committee on Health and Welfare Chair Malua T. Peter and Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations Chair Dino M. Jones.

Higher gas prices greet car owners

Shell Guam, Inc. raised pump prices of petroleum products in all service stations in the Northern Marianas effective Sunday midnight, due to new rounds of oil price increases in the Singapore regional market. Car owners who gas up at Shell service stations throughout the CNMI will have to cough up an additional four cents for a gallon of regular and six cents more for a gallon of premium gasoline. Price of diesel, on the other hand, has been increased by one cent per gallon. "We have recently received a shipment of the higher priced product into Saipan and must pass on the costs while remaining competitive," Shell Guam President Andrew Harford said.

May 21, 2002

Bank of Saipan opens today

The Bank of Saipan will open its doors today as banking transactions resume after a 20-day hiatus. However, the BoS, including its Tinian and Rota branches, will recommence banking operations on a limited basis, allowing depositors to withdraw up to $500 only or about 10 percent of each customers' deposits. All banking transactions, including loan payments, deposits and withdrawals, will be back on track, Commerce Secretary Fermin Atalig said yesterday.

Debacle spurs heated legal battle

The legal battle over the issue of the Bank of Saipan receivership is heating up before the Superior Court, with lawyers representing the bank and the government filing one motion after another, swapping legal arguments, three weeks into this unprecedented debacle. Yesterday, the government, through Assistant Attorney General Allan L. Dollison, countered the BoS' previous motion seeking the immediate removal of court-appointed temporary receiver Randall T. Fennell, asserting that the motion is "based upon incorrect factual assertions." BoS last week filed an emergency motion to replace Fennell as receiver in fear of losing nearly all of its employees, who have vowed to resign if Fennell continued under such capacity.

JOETEN 60th ANNIVERSARY

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San Vicente Road
Tel: 234-3176 - Fax: 235-0007

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Victory in Sri Lanka

The Sri Lankan government has beheaded the Tamil Tiger separatist insurgency, claiming victory in a quarter-century war that claimed upward of 70,000 lives—more than 7,000 since January alone. This was a brutal rebel force that deployed suicide bombers, assassinated scores of politicians—including former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi—and forcibly recruited child soldiers. In their final days, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam used Tamil civilians as human shields against a crushing military offensive that the government of President Mahinda Rajapaksa executed over international appeals for a humanitarian cease-fire. The end came Monday with the deaths of rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and his deputies.

The government defeated the rebels using a combination of military hardware, counterinsurgency warfare and divide-and-conquer tactics. With support from countries such as China, India and Israel, Rajapaksa neutralized Western criticism of the brutal prosecution of the war and the silencing of domestic critics until he could finish the job. But ending a war is one thing, and ensuring peace is quite another.

The Tamil minority's struggle for independence began in response to their marginalization by the Sinhalese majority, and now the United Nations estimates that 265,000 civilians have been displaced by the fighting, their land and homes in ruin. The U.N. and the International Committee of the Red Cross must be allowed to provide food, water and shelter for these people and to safeguard against a victor's revenge.

Throughout the offensive, the military restricted access to the battle zone and even to the country for journalists, as well as international aid workers, impeding the gathering of information on the treatment of civilians by both sides, including alleged government shelling of hospitals. Now, the government not only must restore free speech but must allow for an independent investigation into war crimes. In the closing days of the war, the Obama administration and the European Union had been stalling on a nearly $2 billion International Monetary Fund loan to the Sri Lankan government because of the conduct of the war. They should hold firm in tying aid to Colombo to improvements in human rights and demand that human-rights violators be prosecuted.

The Sri Lankan government, meanwhile, must seek a political accommodation with autonomy for the Tamil minority. Failure to protect the Tamils and to address their needs likely will produce new rebels and more fighting in short order.

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Waterboarding creates the sensation of DROWNING?
Like Nancy Pelosi trying to defend herself...
MARGULIES
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Maturation of the American dream

By PICO IYER
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Iyer is the author of The Open Road: The Global Journey of the Fourteenth Dalai Lama.

America was always wearing a big smile when it strode into our living room in damp and ghostly England: Lucille Ball, the Beach Boys, a shining young president with two small kids, all stepped down from the screen in the days just before the convulsions of Vietnam, and summoned my Indian-born parents and me to the Land of Promise and Unending Sunshine.

It would never seem quite so rosy after we knew it off screen, but Ronald Reagan or Julia Roberts—even Bruce Springsteen, at times—ensured in later years that America still meant to the outside world possibility, freedom, the perpetual future tense. It was, everyone knew, the home of the Hollywood ending: the final clinch, justice restored by the lone hero, the dawning of a bright new day.

Or so, at least, ran the self-fulfilling myth of the last 100 years, rightly called the American century.

In 1890, as the global columnist Fareed Zakaria points out, the United States had only the 14th-largest army in the world, and its navy was one-eighth the size of Italy's. By the late 1940s, it controlled 50 percent of the world economy.

The growth of technology meant that the American dream got turned into a global cottage industry that everyone longed to feed on. It was the vision that drew millions of dreamers up from south of the border, over from East Asia and my parents' Bombay, and as these migrating dreamers raised the country to even greater heights, they made it their business to spread rags-to-riches stories to the world (on screen) and to tell their friends back home that you really could find new beginnings in America.

As soon as the new century began, though, we were not so quietly reminded that dreams at some point bump into realities. America's very youthfulness, its remoteness from the tragic lessons of history, seemed to render it more vulnerable to terrorists than even the victims of later (and much smaller) attacks in London or Madrid or Mumbai (the former Bombay) would be. It was as if endless summer had no way of dealing with darkness and cold. Hell, to adapt Shakespeare to America, hath no fury like a dreamer scorned.

Yet as the seasons have continued turning, and as we have adjusted to a new vision of reality, that initial shock has matured into something much more promising. Returning to America this spring, after many months in Japan and India and Europe, I am struck by how much the country, in the wake of its latest attack (from the treacherous cycles of the market), seems in tune with the rest of the world, at last.

Our new president smiles less than did his predecessor, and many of us feel better for it. On a recent episode of the Japanese version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," one question noted that the ringing word Barack Obama kept out of his inauguration address was not "freedom"—or "peace"—but "dream."

It has long seemed to some of us that America could best play a part in the new global order once it had older hands, from more seasoned cultures, to help direct its evergreen energy and hopefulness. Youth, as wise men have it, is wasted on the young. As soon as the New World was ruled by people from Iran and Vietnam, bringing us their own, more weathered sense of history, the land of happy endings would have both the experience to see what was realistically possible and the freshness to make it happen. The American dream would have less to do with conquering the world than—as seems to be happening already—with living in something like harmony with it.

To the planet as a whole, our new president speaks for the hope and opportunity, the youthfulness of America, which is what most of the planet craves. But to anyone who's met him on the page, he comes from some much older and more qualified place. His memoir is not about finding his roots and bringing "closure" to his search for identity but, rather, about being unsettled and even shocked by what he found out about his father and his legacy in Kenya, and being haunted by Indonesia even in the born-again sunshine of Hawaii. His tone in recent months has been prudently sober, refusing to talk too easily of happy endings or quick victories.

At times this looks like the best, and most unexpected, new development of the century: What's being outsourced now are American dreams and Hollywood endings. After all, this year a British film from my parents' Bombay about the victory of hope and rags-to-riches dreams got the top Oscar, eclipsing our home-grown movies about doubt, a murdered San Francisco revolutionary, a "dark knight" and a prematurely old little boy.

I'd never have guessed it in rainy old England: The Old World is becoming new, even as we—at last—are getting a little older.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Making the grade

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

Plans are important because they make you think about your future so you can take full advantage of opportunities and devise steps to overcome any challenges. Whether your plan is for a business, your career, or a family vacation, plans can save time and help you reach your goals faster.

There is a lot of emphasis on planning in the business world, but once the plan is created, there seems to be little time and attention spent implementing or monitoring the plan to ensure it's accomplished. A 1999 *Fortune* magazine article suggested that 70 percent of chief executive officer failures are not a result of poor planning, but because of poor execution. Another study estimates that about 90 percent of organizations do not execute their strategy.

I've participated in numerous planning sessions and a lot of time is spent going through the process of planning, setting strategic goals, breaking them down into priority initiatives that have specific objectives to be achieved and then creating action steps that identify responsible parties, resources, and timelines. After all the time and energy is spent creating a beautifully detailed document, it typically becomes one of the 90 percent of plans that collects dust on a shelf.

As I've thought about this, I also realized that most, if not all, of my students would not follow-through on homework assignments or study for a test if I did not give them a grade. Knowing that a paper or test will be graded is an important motivator for students to put in the extra effort to create a quality product on time, or ensure that they are ready to take a test.

Just think about the time you spent in school. Would you really have studied as much, or put as much effort into a paper or project if you knew it was not going to count toward your final grade?

Grades are universally understood because individuals have received them for 12 years until they graduated from high school, or longer if they went to college. However, after their education is complete, grades fade into the background and are practically never seen again.

When performance is not measured, performance tends to diminish. When performance is measured, it tends to improve, and when performance is measured and reported regularly, the rate of improvement tends to accelerate. The key, then, to improve the performance of a plan is to regularly measure and report the performance of specific action steps. When responsible individuals and teams know they will be required to account for the completion of their action steps, and their performance will be measured and reported, both the quantity and the quality of the number of actions completed will increase.

Let's take a closer look at that plan that's collecting dust on the shelf. What if there was some type of grading system used to periodically give the person or group responsible to achieve each action step a letter grade, based on their completion of the step in a timely manner. What if the grades became part of an overall report card for the organization, and the report could easily be reviewed to determine the areas of strength and weakness within the organization. Do you think it might motivate people to take the plan more seriously, especially if incentives were linked to the accomplishment of key objectives?

Periodically review your plan on a monthly or quarterly basis. Prior to the review, have responsible individuals and/or their team give themselves a letter grade from "A" to "F" for each specific action that is to be initiated that quarter and a brief explanation about its status. An "A" means the action was completed on time, "B" signifies it was completed, but not in a timely manner, "C" means the action is almost complete with just minor areas needing attention, "D" indicates the action was started, but has major areas that need to be completed, and an "F" grade means the action was not started or very little has been accomplished. The grade can be improved each quarter, as long as the final deadline has not been reached.

The grades for each action can now be used to determine a grade point average (GPA) for the objective and goals of the plan. Even the plan can have a grade based on the overall GPA. It is now easy to review the grades for each of the steps to determine how the plan received the grade. You can even tie specific individuals or groups to the grades received. This allows you to identify the outstanding performers and those that are having difficulty making the grade. Those with lower grades should receive some extra attention, coaching, or encouragement. This grading system provides a simple method to review the completion level of the plan and easily determine areas for improvement. Without it, your plan collects dust until the next planning session rolls around.

China, Inc.

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's *Opinion Section*

Like the cuddly-looking panda, China has become something other than the image of the bellicose state fostered by the era of Khrushchev and Mao Tze Tung, more now like the light, urbane and sophisticated diplomatic touch of Chou En Lai, and the deft practicality of Deng Xiao Ping. The civilization that emerged from the river basins of the Chiang Jiang and the Huang He have spawned a corporate entity with tentacles reaching as far south as the icy waterways of Patagonia to the four seasons of Vancouver, British Columbia, from the oil fields of Sudan to the hamlets along Malacca Straits, from the Siberian tundras to the eastside of New York City. The sleeping giant has become a giant conglomerate.

The Jiangsu Province's empty factory buildings I observed in Sheyang in 2008 also held true in the Hangzhou-Wuxi-Nanjing triangle, reflecting an economic reality not evident in the glowing reports of handlers of China's capital market and financial management portfolios in the world's stock markets.

The state of disrepair in Pudong on the westside of the Huangpo river in Shanghai last July 2008 may be explained as a project put on hold, playing second fiddle to the priority call of Beijing for the Olympics in August, but it also mirrored the global economic crisis that would come crashing down to welcome the new Obama administration.

The halted construction project evident in the excavated thoroughfare by the Bund, presumably now resumed in time for the Shanghai Expo 2010, is now the situation in China's No. 4 city, Shenyang in Liaoning Province. Were one to view the city from the Great Proletarian Helmsman's statue at the confluence of three thoroughfares on Zhongsan Square, a quadrant view in any direction would show, at least a dozen inactive building construction cranes.

The massive high-rise edifices of the Ibis Hotel and the Diamond House along Nanjing Bei Lu (north road) alone stand as a mute witness to a construction flurry put on hold on an economy so heavily dependent on servicing a global market. The number of condemned buildings waiting to be torn down is a blight in an otherwise optimistic building boom at the turn of the millennium; even the construction of the city Metro is evidently put on hold.

To counter the declining external demand for Chinese products, credit facility for personal loans up to five times a person's annual income has just been decided and made available to ordinary workers to spur personal consumption. In a culture noted for its general frugality in personal expenditures, and a propensity to gamble accumulated savings in stock markets, a consumer society is being swiftly born, evidently assisted by the Caesarean method.

Mao Tze Tung's statue in Shenyang looks into advertisements of Fendi and Armani products, and huge pictures of scantily clad models hawking all kinds of boutique and intimate attires. This is just like marketing DFS Galleria products to garment factory workers earning minimum wage before WTO rules kicked in 2005 on Saipan!

For a socialist state like China, the issue of distributive justice remains a deep social contradiction. The state's decision to support massive construction of individual dwellings in suburban settings as well as high-rise edifices in the urban centers is admirable, and despite the fact that 25 percent of its population is projected to be able to afford such housing model, the reality remains that the *hutongs* (back alleys) in all the major cities nurse a social malaise of deep resentment over the access to consumer goods by a few as against the smoldering desire of the many.

Shenyang has become an electronics center of such products as iPods and iPhones. All the automakers in the world are present in the city's Tiexi New District, hawking the latest in automobiles. But the minimum wage is still at .60 cents per hour in the factories that follow legal requirements. At 40-hours per week, a worker would earn less than 700 yuan per month, thus the common incidence of overtime to double that figure, which amounts to approximately $200 a month. What's that in actual purchasing power?

A Made-in-China 8G USB flash drive (Lenovo brand, I think) was selling at a suburban Target outlet in New York City for $34 three weeks ago; the same is being sold at the WalMart store in Shenyang (Yes, WalMart!) for $38. The NY worker earns a minimum wage more than 10 times that of his Chinese counterpart but pays for the same product that his counterpart produces for less than the consumer cost at source. Talk about a double whammy—the Chinese worker is walloped twice at the production and distribution end!

Mary Kay is a neon-lighted sign atop one of Shenyang's downtown buildings, and many group gatherings below in marketing and sales assemblies tote Amway bags. Is the pink Cadillac far behind? Not in Shenyang; the dealership is only a mile away on Beier Lu west of the city! From Porsche to Hyundai, Ford to BYD, the personal vehicle is coming into its own in China. Is the Chinese Los Angeles of two-cars in every garage, a chicken in every pot, and 2.5 kids in the nursery, so far behind as the state superhighway follows the Silk Road to the dry air of Wulumuqi on to Kyrgyzstan and beyond?

Spurring the local consumption is the current strategy. Judicious use of foreign investors will tax the communalism of China. Already, Carrefour, Gome and WalMart are dominant department stores that have encroached on the traditional domain of small storefronts and neighborhood stores. The contradiction is not just on the distribution end, but also the cultural end. Consumerism of the Western variety has not spared the remote villages of Xizang (Tibet). Almost 85percent of the value of purchased Adidas shoes flies out of the country.

Investment in any locale is desirable for the economy. Being able to hold that investment in a local bank, lending it to as many local merchants multiplies its value, circulating it rapidly to as many people as possible meets its *raison d'etre.* (We see why Japanese, Chinese and Korean investors utilizing alien labor does not whet the local Saipan pocketbook!)

China's economy will survive the current crisis if distributive justice is followed. China's communalism may actually serve its economic cause; it definitely has a lot to teach other economies.

Letter to the Editor

Congratulations!

Please allow us the opportunity to congratulate our friends and family who have recently graduated from the Northern Marianas College. They deserve the recognition. We would like to extend our sincerest congratulations to the Northern Marianas College ABE/associate/bachelor's degree graduates!

Kudos to our friends and family:

Larry John Atalig, Lucinda Barcinas, Yolanda Cabrera, Zorana Caberera, Juan Cruz III, Valen Hocog, Carlyn Igisaiar, Kayla Magofna, Ignacio Manglona, Nuke Manglona, Orville Manglona, John Lee Manibusan, Rose Masga, Sabina Mendiola, Trent Mendiola, Leona Mesa, Daniel Narro, Arleen Pinaula, Yvonne Pinaula, Daniel Rangamar, Shelby Lee Rangamar, Danice San Nicolas, Darren Santos, Tricille Taisacan, Tilford Toves, Nora Pangelinan, Pete Mesngon and Tasi Faith Taitano.

There are those who start and never finish and those who persevere and accomplish goals in their lives. You have accomplished something great in yours! Congratulations! Remember that achievement is bondage; it obliges you to higher achievement! Education is never-ending; continue to strive for the best.

Your hard work and dedication are well recognized throughout our community. You have shown great commitment to education and are great models in our community.

Once again, congratulations! We wish you the best in life and encourage you to continue your educational endeavor.

Joey Quitugua and family
via e-mail

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

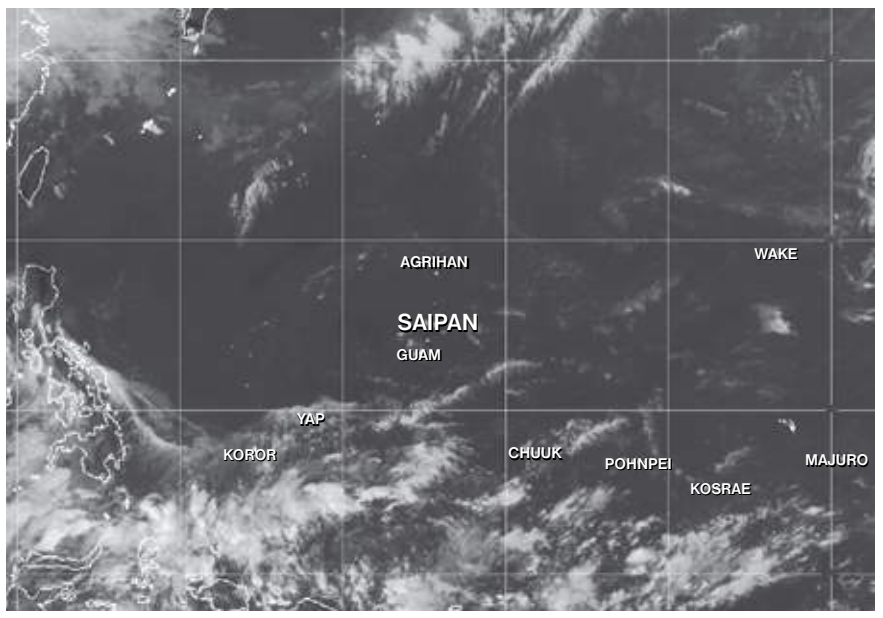
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼77
Yap	Sunny	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲83	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Dreary	▲54	▼46
Beijing	Showers	▲81	▼64
Hong Kong	Rain	▲86	▼79
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼70
London	Showers	▲64	▼48
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲74	▼58
Manila	Showers	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲68	▼56
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼74
New York	Sunny	▲84	▼62
Osaka	Cloudy	▲70	▼62
Paris	Showers	▲68	▼52
Pusan	Rain	▲72	▼52
Rome	Sunny	▲86	▼64
Salem	Sunny	▲72	▼44
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲67	▼52
Seoul	Rain	▲71	▼52
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲79	▼61
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼57

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak near-equatorial trough extends from 2N130E eastward to the equator at 155e. Low-level convergence north of the trough is producing scattered showers south of Palau and Yap in the area bounded by 5N130E to 8N146E to 4N143E to 1N136E to EQ130E back to 5N130E. Scattered showers are also found south of Chuuk in the area bounded by 5N148E to 4N154E to EQ152E back to 5N148E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers south of Pohnpei and Kosrae south of a line from EQ155E to 3N163E to 1N166E. A surface trough stretches from east of Wake Island at 19N170E northeastward to 25N176E and an upper-level low is centered near 23N173E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with these features are occurring between 20N and 25N from 173E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:25 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:27 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:53 PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:16 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:42 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:42 AM	3:26 PM
Friday	3:24 AM	4:23 PM
Saturday	4:10 AM	5:24 PM
Sunday	5:02 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	7:35 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Island Snapshots

DEDICATION RITES

Rev. Rufino U. Javier dedicates to the Lord his grandson, Zephaniah Javier Flores, at Grand Hotel Saipan's AOI Restaurant last Saturday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Rev. Rufino U. Javier and his wife, Rebecca R. Javier, extreme right, pose with their daughter Jenny J. Flores and grandchildren Jireh Ann J. Flores and Zephaniah J. Flores, during the dedication to the Lord of Zephaniah at Saipan Grand Hotel's AOI Restaurant ON Saturday. Jireh Ann and Zephaniah are children of Capt. Anthony W. Flores and Jenny J. Flores.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

DOCOMO DONATION

Docomo's Absalon Waki Jr. hands over a $1,000 check as donation to David Rosario, chair of the Commonwealth Cancer Association after Monday's proclamation signing ceremony for the 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer week at the Bank of Guam office.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

PEACE MEMORIAL

Nempo Shinkyo Group holds memorial services at Saipan's Banzai Cliff and the Japan Peace Memorial on Sunday, May 9, to pray for victims of World War II and world peace. The group makes an annual trip to the Northern Marianas for the services.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to James John D. Magofna, who celebrated his birthday on May 19. In photo with him is sister-in-law Ellen Cepeda, taken during the 2008 Taitano family reunion held at the Minatchom Atdao. Happy birthday JJ and many blessings from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BOARD MEETING

Government retirees and their supporters attend the Retirement Fund board of trustees meeting on Tuesday during which the board nixed any idea of coming to a mediation with the CNMI government over its owed employer contributions.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A special birthday shoutout goes out to Jamel Aldan Magofna, who is celebrating her 6th birthday today, May 21. "Happy birthday, Melly!. We wish you more blessings and we love you very much. May you have the best birthday ever!" From the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to the "twins" Victoria Nicole Cruz Sablan and Victor Nicolas Cruz Sablan who graduated from K-5 class at Grace Christian Academy-Tinian.

Business

Obama's new rules will transform US auto fleet

DETROIT (AP)—Some soccer moms will have to give up hulking SUVs. Carpenters will still haul materials around in pickup trucks, but they will cost more. Nearly everybody else will drive smaller cars, and more of them will run on electricity. The higher mileage and emissions standards set by the Obama administration on Tuesday, which begin to take effect in 2012 and are to be achieved by 2016, will transform the American car and truck fleet.

The new rules would bring new cars and trucks sold in the United States to an average of 35.5 miles per gallon, about 10 mpg more than today's standards. Passenger cars will be required to get 39 mpg, light trucks 30 mpg.

That means cars and trucks on American roads will have to become smaller, lighter and more efficient.

Eric Fedewa, vice president of global powertrain forecasting for the auto consulting firm CSM Worldwide in Northville, Mich., said the changes will make pickup trucks so much more expensive that they will be used almost exclusively for work.

AP

In this June 2, 2008 file photo, electric hybrid cars are plugged-in to charge during a demonstration of the vehicles in Seattle. AFS Trinity says it has the only working plug-in hybrid vehicles with a 40-mile "all-electric" range.

And instead of a minivan or SUV, more parents will haul their families in much smaller vehicles with three rows of seats—something more like the Mazda 5 small van, he said. The Mazda 5 gets about 28 mpg on the highway.

"I think what you'll see is a lot more creativity in interior packaging," Fedewa said. "You'll get more rows of seats where you traditionally had cargo space."

Already on Tuesday, some drivers were skeptical. Dixie Bishop, who runs a plumbing business in San Antonio that uses vans, worries the new requirements will drive up her costs at a time when customers are cutting back on repairs.

"Are they going to take my horsepower down?" she asked. "I have to be able to carry old water heaters and toilets. It's not beneficial for me to haul one water heater at a time. We need the power to pull these heavy items."

The changes will start with smaller cars and trucks, and improvements to the internal combustion engine, Fedewa said. Automakers also already working on new technology, including direct fuel injection and high compression of the air-fuel mixture, that will make cars and trucks more efficient.

Car companies are rewiring vehicles so components such as air conditioners and power steering pumps are powered by electricity rather than by the engine, saving fuel.

And they're developing computer-controlled transmissions with six or more gears, adding efficiency, and rolling out more gas-electric hybrids—among the few cars sold today that meet the 2016 standards.

Of course, developing the technology will cost money—billions of dollars—and automakers will pass that on to their customers.

The Obama administration says the changes mean the average vehicle would cost about $1,300 more, although some private analysts say the increase will be much heftier. The administration says gas savings will make up the difference in about three years.

Senate OKs bill to rein in credit card practices

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday to rein in credit card rate increases and excessive fees, hoping to give voters some breathing room amid a recession that has left hundreds of thousands of Americans jobless or facing foreclosure.

The House was on track to pass the measure as early as Wednesday, paving the way for President Barack Obama to see the bill on his desk by week's end.

"This is a victory for every American consumer who has ever suffered at the hands of a credit card company," said Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., chairman of the Banking Committee. The bill passed the Senate 90-5.

If enacted into law as expected, the bill would give the credit card industry nine months to change the way it does business: Lenders would have to post their credit card agreements on the Internet and let customers pay their bills online or by phone without an added fee. They'd also have to give consumers a chance to spare themselves from over-the-limit fees and provide 45 days notice and an explanation before interest rates are increased.

Some of these changes are already on track to take effect in July 2010, under new rules being imposed by the Federal Reserve. But the Senate bill would put these changes into law and go further in restricting the types of bank fees and who can get a card.

Merkin to cede control of funds that fed to Madoff

NEW YORK (AP)—J. Ezra Merkin, the hedge fund manager who invested billions of dollars of his clients' money with Wall Street swindler Bernard Madoff, has agreed to relinquish control of his funds to court-appointed trustees.

The attorney general's office had requested the turnover agreement in connection with its civil fraud lawsuit accusing Merkin of convincing clients he was managing their money when he was actually funneling $2.4 billion to Madoff's Ponzi scheme. The deal, which was discussed in court Tuesday and was expected to be approved by a judge on Thursday, is not a settlement in the case, the attorney general's office said.

Lawyer Andrew Levander said in a statement the handover was part of Merkin's "continuing efforts to maximize the returns to investors" and "provide certainty and stability during the previously announced wind-down of the Ariel and Gabriel Funds."

Those funds are to be handed over to Guidepost Partners LLC, while Merkin's Ascot Partners fund is to be placed under the control of David Pitofsky, a litigation lawyer who was once a corporate fraud investigator for the federal prosecutor's office in New York. The two court-appointed trustees are expected to oversee the funds' eventual liquidation.

Lawyer Harry Susman, who has sued Merkin on behalf of a number of investors in the Ascot and Gabriel funds, called Tuesday's agreement "welcome news for everyone."

"There's obviously a huge lack of trust," he said. "He was just giving the money to other people ... and so you really kind of wonder what was the point of having him around in the first place."

GM says still hasn't made deals with Treasury, UAW

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Corp. said Tuesday it does not expect to reach agreement on concessions with the United Auto Workers union or with the Treasury Department on its debt-for-equity exchange before a May 26 deadline.

Both deals are part of the restructuring effort GM must complete by June 1, or it could be sent into bankruptcy protection.

GM said in a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission that the agreements aren't expected to be reached by May 26—the deadline for GM's bondholders to accept an offer to take 10 percent of the company's stock in exchange for wiping out $27 billion in debt. GM had said in its original debt swap offer that it expected to disclose terms of a UAW deal to cut labor costs before that deadline.

Also in the filing, GM said it doesn't expect to reach a deal with Treasury to swap at least half of GM's debt to the government for stock. The company estimates that half the debt as of June 1 would total $10 billion. GM has discussed giving the government half of the company's outstanding shares to wipe out half of its debt.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

HP profit drops 17 pct; PC, ink sales stumble

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Hewlett-Packard Co.'s quarterly profit dropped 17 percent on lighter sales in two key areas, personal computers and printer ink, in a sign that the woes in consumer technology spending have dragged on beyond the miserable holiday season. The company also said an additional 6,400 workers, or 2 percent of HP's 321,000-employee workforce, will lose their jobs over the next year. The cuts will be on top of the 24,600 jobs HP was already dumping as part of its acquisition of Electronic Data Systems, a technology services provider HP bought for $13.9 billion last year to mount a bigger challenge to IBM Corp. The new cuts will come from HP's product businesses. HP, whose products include PCs, printers, computer servers, ink and toner cartridges, didn't provide more detail.

Surprise drop in housing data checks market's rise

NEW YORK (AP)—A record low in housing construction has investors doubting the economy again. Stocks closed narrowly mixed in light trading Tuesday as the surprise drop in construction and a cautious outlook from retailer Home Depot Inc. led energy and utility stocks to pare gains. Construction of homes and apartments fell 12.8 percent last month to the lowest pace on records going back a half-century, the Commerce Department said. Analysts had expected housing starts to rise.

Oil hovers above $60 as investors eye inventories

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered above $60 a barrel Wednesday in Asia as investors looked to U.S. inventory data later in the day for clues about the strength of crude demand. Benchmark crude for July delivery was up 35 cents to $60.45 a barrel midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Tuesday, the contract rose 51 cents to settle at $60.10. Investors will be watching for the weekly petroleum inventory data from the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration on Wednesday for signs crude demand may be growing.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	3,808.900 Up 8.300 (0.22%)
HONG KONG	17,470.54 Down 73.49 (-0.42%)
JAKARTA	1,897.5649 Up 11.549 (0.61%)
TOKYO	9,344.64 Up 54.35 (0.59%)
K. LUMPUR	1,023.49 Up 11.48 (1.13%)
MANILA	2,333.76 Up 24.18 (1.05%)
SINGAPORE	2,272.45 Up 12.09 (0.53%)
SEOUL	1,435.7 Up 7.49 (0.52%)
BANGKOK	561.53 Up 5.06 (0.91%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	8,474.85 -29.23
NASDAQ	1,734.54 2.18
S&P	908.13 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.2975
British Pound	0.6463
Canadian Dollar	1.1565
Chinese Renminbi	6.8250
Euro	0.7355
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7527
Indian Rupee	50.7000
Indonesian Rupiah	47.7340
Japanese Yen	95.6500
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5480
New Zealand Dollar	1.6626
Philippine Peso	47.2660
Singapore Dollar	1.4642
South Korean Won	1,250.3000
Swiss Franc	1.1117
Taiwan Dollar	32.8680
Thailand Baht	34.4350

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Arrest ordered for mom of boy, 13, resisting chemo

NEW ULM, Minn. (AP)—Authorities sought to arrest the mother of a 13-year-old boy with cancer who refuses chemotherapy after she fled with her son and missed a court hearing Tuesday on his welfare. A judge issued an arrest warrant and ordered that Daniel Hauser be placed in a foster home and be sent for an immediate examination by a pediatric oncologist so he can get treated for Hodgkins lymphoma.

"The court's priority at this point is to try to get Daniel Hauser and get him the care he needs," Brown County District Judge John Rodenberg said.

The cancer is considered highly curable with chemotherapy and radiation, but Daniel quit chemo after a single treatment. With his parents, he opted instead for "alternative medicines," citing religious beliefs. That led authorities to seek custody. Rodenberg last week ruled that Daniel's parents, Colleen and Anthony Hauser, were medically neglecting their son.

The Hausers are Roman Catholic and also believe in the "do no harm" philosophy of the Nemenhah Band, a Missouri-based religious group that believes in natural healing methods advocated by some American Indians.

Colleen Hauser testified earlier that she had been treating his cancer with herbal supplements, vitamins, ionized water and other natural alternatives.

AP

Attorney Phil Elbert, appointed to represent Daniel Hauser, speaks to reporters outside of the Brown County Courthouse after a hearing which Hauser and his mother Colleen failed to appear at, on Tuesday May 19, 2009 in New Ulm, Minn.

The family was due in court Tuesday to report the results of a chest X-ray and their arrangements for an oncologist. But only Daniel's father appeared. He told Rodenberg he last saw his wife Monday evening.

"She said she was going to leave," Hauser testified. "She said, `That's all you need to know.' And that's all I know."

He said Colleen Hauser left her cell phone at their home in the southern Minnesota town of Sleepy Eye.

Anthony Hauser now agrees that Daniel needs to be taken back to a doctor for re-evaluation for the best treatment, said Calvin Johnson, an attorney for the parents.

The founder of Nemenhah, Philip Cloudpiler Landis, said it was a bad idea for Colleen Hauser to flee with her son.

"She should have gone to court," Landis said. "It's how we work these things out. You don't solve anything by disregarding the order of the judge."

The arrest warrant has been distributed nationwide and a crime alert was being issued to businesses around the country, Brown County Sheriff Rich Hoffman said. He said investigators were following some leads, but declined to elaborate.

Senators reject closing Gitmo prison without plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's promise to close the Guantanamo Bay prison suffered a blow Tuesday when his allies in the Senate said they would refuse to finance the move until the administration delivers a satisfactory plan for what to do with the detainees there.

As the Senate took up Obama's request for money for military and diplomatic operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, Democrats reversed course and said they would deny the request for $80 million for the Justice and Defense departments to relocate the 240 detainees at the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. They would also indefinitely bar the government from transferring of any of the facility's prisoners into the United States, though the ban could be relaxed in subsequent legislation.

A vote is expected Wednesday on an amendment by Sens. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, and James Inhofe, R-Okla., that would put the restrictions in the war-funding measure. While allies such as No. 2 Senate Democrat Dick Durbin of Illinois cast the development as a delay of only a few months, other Democrats have made it plain they don't want any of Guantanamo's detainees sent to the United States to stand trial or serve prison sentences.

Calif. voters decide slate of budget propositions

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Voters trickled to California's polls Tuesday to decide a complex slate of fiscal measures that many said they were largely rejecting out of disgruntlement with lawmakers and their attempts to fill a widening budget deficit.

Rex Bailey, 52, said he was tired of late state budgets and financial crises. "I wanted to vote no on every proposition and send a signal to our politicians that they need to get it together," Bailey said while voting in Los Angeles.

Joshua Mack, 31, also rejected the measures. "The state's in a colossal mess and these things aren't the way to fix it," he said.

Early turnout was light, as had been expected in an election that's just six months after a presidential contest that swelled voter rolls. Attentive voters have told pollsters they are likely to reject propositions meant to close what had been a $42 billion deficit over two years.

The special election called by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and lawmakers in February also is deciding a Southern California congressional seat and state Senate seat.

Banker La Veria Baker, 42, said at a Los Angeles polling place that she was voting against all the measures except Proposition 1F, which would freeze the pay of lawmakers and elected officials during deficit years. Baker wants to see the budget balanced through cuts rather than higher taxes or borrowing from future state revenue.

Larry Irwin, 74, also voted in favor of Proposition 1F and rejected all the other measures.

"I think we need to stop borrowing from the future," said Irwin, vice president of a textile distribution company. "We keep going into debt and not doing anything about it."

Polls showed Proposition 1F was the only one of the six measures that appeared to have enough support to pass.

The deficit is projected to hit $15.4 billion in the fiscal year that begins in July if voters approve the ballot measures. If they don't, the deficit will grow to $21.3 billion, the governor's office said last week.

Milwaukee police link 7th case to serial killer

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A prostitute whose strangled body was found in a vacant house has become the seventh known victim of a serial killer who targeted streetwalkers in Wisconsin for more than two decades, police said Tuesday.

Police believe the suspect, whose identity is unknown, strangled five other prostitutes and had sex with a 16-year-old runaway whose throat was slashed. Another suspect likely killed the teen, police said.

DNA results came back Tuesday linking the death of Florence McCormick, 28, to the killer. Her body was found in 1995 in the basement of a vacant home by workers doing repairs.

AP

This combination photo composed of undated photos released by the Milwaukee Police Department via the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel shows five victims from what Milwaukee police say is a serial killer that has been killing for more than two decades.

The bodies of three of the other slain women were also found in vacant houses.

The earliest death linked to the serial killer was in 1986 and the latest was in 2007. The prostitutes killed ranged in age from 19 to 41.

Police have submitted or resubmitted DNA samples from about two dozen other unsolved homicides to see if they are related.

ACROSS THE NATION

Quake prompts evacuation of Long Beach building

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An apartment building in Long Beach, Calif., has been evacuated due to roof damage sustained from a small earthquake that shook the area hours earlier. A dispatcher at the Long Beach Fire Department says at least a dozen people were evacuated Tuesday night after someone noticed damage to the building's eaves. No injuries were reported. Earlier in the afternoon, a magnitude-4 temblor hit north of Long Beach near the Los Angeles International Airport. The aftershock occurred near the epicenter of Sunday's 4.7 quake, which caused strong shaking and light damage in the beach towns south of the airport.

Veteran Ill. sheriff accused of trafficking pot

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Sheriff Raymond M. Martin has been the law for nearly 20 years in a struggling southern Illinois county. But federal prosecutors say he's been breaking it lately by peddling pounds of pot, some seized by his own department, often in uniform and from his patrol vehicle. Authorities on Monday led away a handcuffed Martin, 46, from his small Shawneetown office after his arrest on federal drug trafficking charges accusing him of supplying a dealer he threatened to kill when that man said he wanted out. The Gallatin County sheriff also allegedly pledged to use his authority to shut down rival drug traffickers. "It's almost beyond belief," said Doug Maier, the sheriff in neighboring White County. Maier called Martin "a pretty low-key guy."

Longtime fugitive mom released from Mich. prison

PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Susan LeFevre's first prison stretch 33 years ago was so scary that she decided to escape. Now, more than a year after her capture, the woman who changed her life to become a suburban mom in California is free again—and this time her departure was legal. "It's been very traumatic. I didn't think I'd make it at times," LeFevre, 54, said of her second term behind bars, describing prison as a "very tragic" place. She was released Tuesday from the Huron Valley prison, south of Ann Arbor, and rode away in a car, a more comfortable departure than in 1976 when she climbed a fence at another prison to escape a 10-year sentence for a heroin deal.

Asia

Compromise sought in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's president has reached out to the Tamil minority, calling for political compromise to unify this island nation after the defeat of the Tamil Tiger rebel group and the death of its leader.

But broad distrust between ethnic communities following a quarter century of warfare could make it difficult for President Mahinda Rajapaksa to accomplish that goal.

A day after the rebels were defeated on the battlefields of the north, state television on Tuesday broadcast footage of rebel chief Velupillai Prabhakaran's bloated body—still dressed in dark green camouflage—laid out on a stretcher next to a lagoon. A blue cloth rested on his head, apparently to cover a bullet wound. His open eyes stared blankly.

The footage was meant to refute rebel claims that their supreme leader had somehow survived the bloody final battle that killed 350 rebels and gave the government control of the entire country for the first time in decades.

The body was also identified by Vinayagamoorthi Muralitharan, a former rebel commander, who defected and is now a government minister, the government said in a statement. Defense spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella said the government might conduct a DNA test as well.

"Our motherland has been completely liberated from separatist terrorism," Rajapaksa told jubilant lawmakers in a nationally televised victory speech to parliament. He declared Wednesday a national holiday of celebration.

He also extended a hand to the mainly Hindu Tamil community, which comprises 18 percent of the country's 20 million people and has complained of decades of discrimination at the hands of the mainly Buddhist Sinhalese majority.

"All the people of this country should live in safety without fear and suspicion. All should live with equal rights. That is my aim," he said, briefly speaking in the Tamil language.

79 killed in Indonesian military plane crash

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—An Indonesian military plane carrying more than 100 people crashed into several homes and burst into flames Wednesday, killing at least 79 people, officials said.

Dozens were injured and more were feared dead, with local television flashing footage of fire engulfing the mangled wreckage. Black smoke billowed in the air, as soldiers carried badly burnt bodies on stretchers to waiting ambulances.

Air force spokesman Bambang Sulistyo said at least 79 people were killed when the C-130 Hercules crashed near a base in East Java province early Wednesday. There were 112 passengers and crew on board.

Military spokesman Sagom Tamboen said the aircraft was transporting troops and their families, including at least 10 children, when it tumbled from the sky near an air force base in East Java province.

AP

Indonesian air force personnel rush to the site where a military C-130 cargo plane crashed in Magetan, East Java, Indonesia, Wednesday, May 20, 2009.

It smashed into a row of houses in Geplak village, killing three on the ground, before skidding into a rice field.

The tail of the plane and several large parts of its charred body were scattered in the paddy and nearby bushes.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar lets diplomats visit Suu Kyi

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's military regime will allow diplomats to meet with pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi after Wednesday's session of her trial. The move follows a hail of international criticism over the junta's handling of her case. Suu Kyi, who has been in detention without trial for more than 13 of the past 19 years, is accused of violating the terms of her house arrest by allowing an American visitor to stay at her home without official permission. The offense is punishable by up to five years' imprisonment. She is standing trial with two female members of her party who live with her, and John W. Yettaw, the American man who triggered the charges by swimming to Suu Kyi's property under the cover of darkness earlier this month and sneaking uninvited into her home.

Rescuers dig out 24 dead in Philippine mudslides

PANTUKAN, Philippines (AP)—Gold miners used their hands to dig out the bodies of 24 colleagues buried under a pile of mud and rocks after landslides tumbled down a rain-soaked mountain in the southern Philippines, a provincial governor said Wednesday. About 50 miners took shelter from pounding rain in five bunkhouses when the mudslides swept away the shanties in the remote village of Napnapan on Monday, said Gov. Arthur Uy of Compostela Valley province. "It was so sudden. They heard the earth entomb their temporary work shelters," Uy told The Associated Press by telephone, quoting survivors. He said some managed to run to safety "but others never made it and were buried by the mud and wood." Most of the dead were pinned and crushed by rocks and suffocated under 3 feet (a meter) of mud, said rescuer Albert Dayao.

Pakistan refugees blocked from homes by fighting

AMBELA, Pakistan (AP)—Waiting at a checkpoint Tuesday under the searing sun, Amina rocked her baby, wrapped in a heavy black burqa. "You'll be home soon," she whispered. But the thud of exploding shells deadened her hopes—and raised questions about military claims the area was clear of Taliban militants. "What is this government doing? They are telling us to return. Listen to that fighting," said Wasim Khan, who was among the hundreds of refugees waiting to return to their homes in Buner, a district seized by Taliban fighters last month. A strategic piece of territory, Buner provides the most direct link to the rest of Pakistan from the Taliban-dominated Swat Valley.

World

Mexico nabs new drug lord, but is it winning war?

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The arrest of a drug cartel lieutenant as he stepped off a private plane—fresh from a brazen baptism party held by his boss—has sparked a debate about whether Mexico is winning the drug war or facing a fearless enemy.

Soldiers acting on an anonymous tip arrested Rodolfo Lopez Ibarra on Tuesday at an airport in the northern city of Monterrey, as a convoy of armed men waited to ferry him to a luxury house and a set of offices in an upscale suburb.

The surprising thing wasn't Lopez Ibarra's private plane or the five women accompanying him on the flight. It was what Lopez allegedly told soldiers after he was arrested: He said he received his latest orders from Arturo Beltran Leyva at a baptism party held by the most-wanted cartel leader at the seaside resort of Acapulco.

Rather than hiding in remote mountain redoubts, Mexico's most wanted traffickers—some with prices of 30 million pesos ($2.1 million) on their heads—are partying openly. In April, police arrested the alleged top recruiter of another cartel, La Familia, at another baptism party held by capos at a resort in the western state of Michoacan.

"This indicates, along with another famous wedding that happened, that they don't have any fear at all of the authorities, none at all," said Samuel Gonzalez, Mexico's former top anti-drug prosecutor. "They are sending a message that they aren't afraid."

Gonzalez was referring to the 2007 wedding of Mexico's most-wanted drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman. Police say they raided the town, but got there just a few hours too late.

WHO seeks swine flu vaccine help for world's poor nations

GENEVA (AP)—The World Health Organization urged drugmakers to reserve some of their pandemic swine flu vaccine for poor countries, but received few concrete offers as experts disclosed that an effective flu shot is still months away.

The global body wants companies to donate at least 10 percent of their production or offer reduced prices for poor countries that could otherwise be left without vaccines if there is a sudden surge in demand. But some are skeptical about what such a commitment could mean for their business.

"I don't think that all of the answers are there yet," said Swiss pharmaceutical giant Novartis AG spokesman Eric Althoff.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who met with 30 major pharmaceutical manufacturers, called Tuesday for global solidarity in confronting the disease. Solidarity "must mean that all have access to drugs and vaccines," he added.

The only major drugmaker that publicly agreed to the WHO request Tuesday was Britain's GlaxoSmithKline PLC, which said it would donate 50 million doses in a pandemic and offer more that WHO could buy at a discount for poor countries.

A second drugmaker with only limited production capacity said it would share half of its vaccine doses. WHO officials declined to identify the company because the deal has yet to be signed.

Smaller vaccine makers from developing countries also promised to share 10 percent of their vaccines with the U.N. at cheaper prices.

"I can reassure you I have received very serious commitments," WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan told reporters after meeting with the drugmakers. Nearby, health ministers from around the world gathered for WHO's annual assembly and discussed how to tackle the outbreak.

Swine flu has been confirmed in more than 9,830 people in at least 40 countries, with most of the cases in Mexico and the U.S. That figure does not include Taiwan which reported its first confirmed case on Wednesday. The global death toll was at least 83-74 in Mexico, seven in the U.S., one in Canada and one in Costa Rica.

The impact of a pandemic—a global epidemic—is expected to be worse in poor countries, where people with other diseases such as AIDS and malaria are more susceptible to swine flu and national health systems are less able to respond.

WORLD BRIEFS

British expense scandal ousts lower house speaker

LONDON (AP)—For the first time in three centuries, the speaker of the House of Commons has resigned—the biggest casualty in a widening scandal in which lawmakers expensed such things as installing a chandelier or cleaning a moat at a country home. Michael Martin took just 30 seconds Tuesday to break with centuries of convention, announcing that in the interest of maintaining unity in Parliament's lower house, he would leave his prestigious post by June 21. "That is all I have to say on this matter," Martin said softly in his Scottish accent, swiftly calling the house to order and moving on to other business. Lawmakers who had crowded the chamber to hear the historic announcement filed out, surprised that such a moment was over in a flash.

Big names and bucks back nuclear 'bank'

VIENNA (AP)—Buffett's bankroll, Obama's clout and the partnership of a savvy ex-Soviet strongman may turn the steppes of central Asia into a nuclear mecca, a go-to place for "safe" uranium fuel in an increasingly nervous atomic age. The $150 million idea, with seed money from U.S. billionaire Warren Buffett, must still navigate the tricky maze of global nuclear politics, along with a parallel Russian plan. But the notion of such fuel banks is moving higher on the world's agenda as a way to keep ultimate weapons out of many more hands. Decisions may come as early as next month here in Vienna.

Haitians welcome Clinton appointment as UN envoy

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Former President Bill Clinton became the U.N.'s first special envoy to Haiti on Tuesday, bringing an unmatched combination of local popularity and global star power to help a country devastated by political turmoil, poverty and natural disasters. Haitians—at least those old enough to have heard of Clinton—welcomed the international attention they said he will bring to their desperate nation and some expressed optimism that he can help alleviate poverty. "If he can make the U.N. work better with Haiti and gets us more money, that would be good," said John-Peter Lacoure, a 24-year-old college graduate who cannot find a job despite his economics degree.

Environment

Environmental alarms raised over home electronics

PARIS (AP)—Charge your iPod, kill a polar bear?

The choice might not be quite that stark, but an energy watchdog is alarmed about the threat to the environment from the soaring electricity needs of gadgets like MP3 players, mobile phones and flat screen TVs.

In a report Wednesday, the Paris-based International Energy Agency estimates new electronic gadgets will triple their energy consumption by 2030 to 1,700 terawatt hours, the equivalent of today's home electricity consumption of the United States and Japan combined.

The world would have to build around 200 new nuclear power plants just to power all the TVs, iPods, PCs and other home electronics expected to be plugged in by 2030, when the global electric bill to power them will rise to $200 billion a year, the IEA said.

Consumer electronics is "the fastest growing area and it's the area with the least amount of policies in place" to control energy efficiency, said Paul Waide, a senior policy analyst at the IEA.

Electronic gadgets already account for about 15 percent of household electric consumption, a share that is rising rapidly as the number of these gadgets multiplies. Last year, the world spent $80 billion on electricity to power all these household electronics, the IEA said.

Most of the increase in consumer electronics will be in developing countries, where economic growth is fastest and ownership rates of gadgets is the lowest, Waide said.

"This will jeopardize efforts to increase energy security and reduce the emission of greenhouse gases" blamed for global warming, the agency said.

Existing technologies could slash gadgets' energy consumption by more than 30 percent at no cost or by more than 50 percent at a small cost, the IEA estimates, meaning total greenhouse gas emissions from households' electronic gadgets could be held stable at around 500 million tons of CO2 per year.

If nothing is done, this figure will double to around 1 billion tons of CO2 per year by 2030, the IEA estimates.

Televisions are one area where much improvement could be made, Waide said.

The IEA estimates the world will soon have 2 billion TVs in use—or an average of 1.3 televisions for every household with electricity. In addition to becoming more numerous, TVs are also getting bigger screens and are being left on for longer each day. The group predicts 5 percent annual increase in energy consumption between 1990 and 2030, just from TVs alone.

Waide said simple measures, such as allowing consumers to regulate the energy consumption of their gadgets according to the features they actually use, should be adopted to counter this growth.

He said governments also need to encourage minimum performance standards and easy-to-read energy labels, so consumers can take energy efficiency into account along with price when buying home electronics.

This Monday, May 22, 2006 file photo provided by Mary Sage shows a polar bear near Barrow, Alaska.

AP

EPA CANCER WARNING TO MEMORIAL DAY VACATIONERS:

'Friday is Don't Fry Day'

Americans should save their skin

ON THE NET

More information on Don't Fry Day:
http://www.skincancerprevention.org/Events/DontFryDay/tabid/113/Default.aspx
More information on EPA's SunWise program:
http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/

To remind Americans to practice sun-safe behaviors on Memorial Day weekend and the rest of summer, EPA's SunWise Program and the National Council on Skin Cancer Prevention have designated the Friday before Memorial Day as "Don't Fry Day." Skin cancer is largely preventable; however, new cases of melanoma, the most deadly of skin cancers, continue to rise at a faster rate than the seven most common cancers.

"Any change in your skin, whether burned or slightly tanned, is a sign of ultraviolet radiation damage," said Drusilla Hufford, director of EPA's Stratospheric Protection Division and council co-chair. "The good news is you can protect yourself and your family members from too much sun, the main cause of skin cancer, by taking simple steps like putting on sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses and a t-shirt."

"Many people believe skin cancer occurs after a lifetime of exposure, and yet, melanoma is the second most common form of cancer for young adults 15-29 years of age," said Dr. Henry Lim, council co-chair. "In the last 30 years, the number of women under age 40 diagnosed with basal cell carcinoma has more than doubled while the squamous cell carcinoma rate has also increased significantly."

Consistent with EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson's priorities, EPA's participation focuses on children and families. The SunWise Program recognizes the important role parents play in protecting their children from too much sun. Sunburns in childhood are associated with an increased risk of developing melanoma.

EPA is encouraging schools to participate by pledging to incorporate sun safety into their May activities. Participating classrooms will receive a Don't Fry Day poster and a classroom set of sun safety stickers. In addition, each classroom will be entered into a drawing for a SunWise Classroom Prize Pack – a set of UV-sensitive SunWise bracelets, a real-time UV monitor, and other sun safety resources.

EPA recommends some simple ways to stay safe in the sun. Remember, Slip, Slop, Slap and Wrap and plan activities away from the midday sun.

- Slip on a shirt.
- Slop on sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher).
- Slap on a hat.
- Wrap on sunglasses to protect the eyes and sensitive skin around them from ultraviolet light.

Skin cancer from UV radiation is the most common of all cancers in the United States. More people will be diagnosed with skin cancer this year than breast, prostate, lung, and colon cancer combined. UV radiation is a carcinogen whether it comes from the sun or an artificial light source.

There is a misperception that people of color are not at risk of getting skin cancer. While the risk for people of color is not as high, skin cancer, including melanoma, affects all skin types. Skin cancer is often detected in people with darker skin after it is too late, so it is important that people of color are safe in the sun and see a doctor if they notice any changes with their skin.

As part of the Don't Fry Day campaign, EPA is also targeting the 10 states with the highest number of new melanoma cases by releasing state-specific skin cancer fact sheets for Connecticut, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont and Washington. Additionally, Salt Lake County, Utah will become a SunWise Community, the newest member of a national program of eight communities that encourage sun safety on the part of their citizens. ***(EPA)***

This Friday is "Don't Fry Day," according to the Environmental protection Agency. Be sure to protect your skin during this Memorial Day weekend.

Energy Star label for computer servers

For the first time, EPA announced Energy Star requirements for computer servers that will protect the environment and result in significant energy savings. On average, computer servers that earn the Energy Star label will be 30 percent more energy efficient than standard servers.

If all servers sold in the United States meet this new specification, energy cost savings would grow to $800 million per year and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from more 1 million vehicles.

Computer servers that earn the Energy Star label will include:

Efficient power supplies that generate less waste heat, reducing the need for excess air conditioning in the facilities where they are housed;

Improved power quality, which provides building-wide efficiency benefits;

Capabilities to measure real time power use, processor utilization, and air temperature, which improves manageability and lowers total cost of ownership;

Advanced power management features to save energy across various operating states; and

A power and performance data sheet for purchasers that standardizes key information on energy performance, features and other capabilities.

Awarding the Energy Star label to computer servers is part of a broader EPA initiative to address growing national data center energy consumption.

More information on the new specification and all EPA's data center initiatives: http://www.energystar.gov/datacenters. (EPA)

Life & Style

Is 'Terminator' director McG's name worth a chuckle?

By GEOFF BOUCHER
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—This week the "Terminator" franchise returns to theaters with its darkest chapter yet, a relentless, spirit-crushing vision of the future where humans are snuffed by killer robots. There are not a lot of lighthearted moments in this film, but you might hear chuckles in the theater during the screen credits because of one line: "A McG film."

McG?

Let the eye-rolling begin. There's something about that name that conjures up images of Sacha Baron Cohen's hip-hop buffoon Ali G or maybe McLovin, the nerdy, underage boozehound from "Superbad," cultural references that don't exactly lend themselves to the fearsome, grinding gears of "Terminator Salvation." His resume hasn't relieved the pressure, as it's highlighted by the gloss of two "Charlie's Angels" films, a lot of pop music videos and a Superman film project that infamously never got off the ground. The man behind the name McG—or perhaps under it—is the most relentlessly upbeat filmmaker in Hollywood today, but even his face droops when the nickname issue is raised.

"Believe me, I know, people hear the name and they just think, 'That guy must be a jerk,'" the 38-year-old said with a groan. "And having it hasn't helped me, that's for sure. But it's what everybody has called me forever."

The moniker wasn't handed to him at a college keg party or when McG worked as a top music video director during the 1990s; it was hung around his neck by his parents who put "Joseph McGinty Nichol" on his birth certificate back in Kalamazoo, Mich., but then decided "McG" would be a tidy way to avoid household confusion since the boy's grandfather and uncle were also named Joseph.

It's a quaint story, but many people who know and work with McG, say a turning point has arrived. "Pretty soon," says "Salvation" executive producer Dan Lin, "McG is not going to have to explain himself. He's a talented, multifaceted guy. Honestly, he epitomizes the American dream. And unlike most people, he accomplishes his dreams."

McG has shown a flair for the unexpected in his career. Growing up in Newport, his Michigan roots made him an outsider, as did "my slight build, my orange afro, the braces—I was the odd kid out in a land of Adonises," he said. He was passionate about music and, after a few attempts as music star or record producer (he did co-write some hits for the band Sugar Ray), he ended up making music videos. "He always had a kidlike enthusiasm about him," said Dexter Holland, lead singer of the Offspring, a band that hit the top of the MTV charts with McG's videos. "And the great directors are able to bring you into their world and feel like a kid again."

Drew Barrymore was impressed with that flair as well and brought McG to Amy Pascal, co-chair of Sony Pictures, and insisted he be the director for "Charlie's Angels." Pascal was deeply skeptical but won over by McG's intense preparation and, well, because star and producer Barrymore was going to walk if the newcomer wasn't trusted with the $100 million project. "Amy Pascal was reluctant," McG said, "but it worked out after I acted out the entire movie."

The 2000 film grossed $40 million its first weekend in the United States (which set a box-office record for a first-time director), and critics split on whether it was great, mindless fun or just grating and mindless. A 2003 sequel followed, and while McG isn't especially proud of the second film, the films racked up a combined $523 million worldwide despite mixed reviews.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Director McG overcame Superman troubles to relaunch the "Terminator" franchise.

Big things were predicted for McG after that sparkling start, but his film career was abruptly grounded

McG was handed the keys to a signature Warner Bros. property—Superman. More than $15 million had been spent in pre-production and on a summer day in 2004 in Burbank, a private plane was waiting on the runway to whisk the director to Australia so he could get to work. McG was stricken and couldn't make to it the steps of the plane—it wasn't a physical ailment, it was a severe panic attack. His intense fear of flying kept him on the ground that day, and the Superman franchise instead took flight with director Bryan Singer.

Bruised and widely ridiculed, McG sought medical help at the University of California, Los Angeles to overcome his intense phobia. His next project was a far smaller film, "We Are Marshall," but it towered in his mind because of its plane-crash plot. The film tells the tale of the Marshall University football program the season after its team was wiped out in a plane crash that left both a small town and a campus reeling.

"That was very personal for me," McG said. "I was doing my own Joseph Campbell or Batman experience, going into the cave with that which scares me most and trying to come out the other side and experiencing growth. I knew I was going to have to fly into the airport where it happened. As you approach that airport in Huntington, W.Va., you can still see this big bald spot on the mountain where the plane went down. I did it. I made the film. Now I fly all the time."

After "Angels" there had been dark days in his personal life, with the death of his brother, a loss that he finds difficult to discuss. But even as his film career sputtered and lurched, he tapped into an unexpected success as a television producer with shows such as "The O.C.," "Chuck" and "Supernatural." Still, TV is TV and film is film, so there was really no reason in the world for Warner Bros to think of McG as the right man for the $140 million revival of "Terminator"—but, well, here he is. Lin said many observers were flabbergasted.

"He inspires me to do the impossible, because who would have thought that McG could get Christain Bale to do 'T4'? Nobody," said Lin. "Right from the beginning people were saying, 'Why are you doing "T4"? Is this "Basic Instinct 2"?' But he did bring credibility to the franchise; he got Christian Bale, one of the most credible actors of his generation, to play the lead. Then he got Arnold Schwarzenegger to come back and do a digital cameo in the movie."

Last year, on the "Salvation" set in New Mexico, producer Moritz Borman said the director came into the project with "a clarity" about what makes the original 1984 movie by James Cameron an enduring sci-fi favorite and what tropes from the subsequent two films should be jettisoned for the contemporary youth audience.

The film is set in 2018 and the war between the malevolent machines of SkyNet and humanity that has been foretold since the first film is underway, and it's not going well for the side that bleeds. Bale is the finally adult John Connor, whom the previous films set up as the prophesied savior of humanity in the face of the killing machines. In this movie, they come in staggering variety (serpentine underwater models, flying models, motorcycle models, giant walking models, etc.)

McG said he wanted more than a hardware film, however, and he cited Philip K. Dick's work, George Miller's "Mad Max" movies and Cormac McCarthy's "The Road" as compass points for his broken-spirit battlefields. McG says he found the material had to live up to the standards of star Bale and possess enough drama and character development that it could hold an audience's attention if it was done on stage with no costumes or props.

McG was paid $6 million to direct "Terminator Salvation," and he has locked in a $10 million deal for the sequel, up quite a bit from the less-than-$400,000 payday he made on the first "Angels" film. This film arrives in theaters as a PG-13 film, the first "Terminator" film without an R rating. That decision was driven by the success of Christopher Nolan's "The Dark Knight" last year. Lin said "seconds, not minutes—frames really" are missing from "Salvation," and McG says flatly: "This is the movie we wanted."

He said his years making videos in the volatile music world make it hard to rattle him on the set.

"That is my environment—I have no sense of pressure or anxiety when I'm making a film," he said. "I have anxiety in my life, I'm no stranger to that but strangely not when I'm under the pressure of making a film. For me, getting the day's work done, dealing with the big personalities, achieving a vision—that is where I live. For me, though, I want to let this movie speak for itself. I really want to get away from my cheerleader self and keep quiet."

Good luck with that. At a comic-book convention in San Francisco, McG got so pumped up in front of an audience of 3,000 hooting fans that he climbed atop a table to praise the breasts of one of his actresses (as she sat there on the dais next to him, mortified) and to pledge to the crowd that "Salvation" would send their testicles flying out of their rear ends.

Even the people who adore the director roll their eyes, albeit with smiles on their faces.

His business headquarters is a hive of activity these days with staffers working on McG's assorted ventures. There are comic books being written, new multimedia ventures being accessed and, for television, a lot of "heavy lifting" on two new projects: The pilot for "Human Target" for Fox is about a man who impersonates people who believe they will soon be murdered, while "Limelight" is a bid to bring back the kids from "Fame," sort of, with Pharrell Williams as collaborator on a performing-arts school drama for ABC.

Final 'Idol': No boundaries for Adam Lambert

AP

This photo provided by FOX shows from left, finalists Adam Lambert and Kris Allen with host Ryan Seacrest during American Idol on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 in Los Angeles.

By ERIN CARLSON
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Are there boundaries to declaring the next "American Idol" champ early? Apparently, nothing can contain the likes of Adam Lambert—not even a difficult new ballad co-written by Kara DioGuardi.

Simon Cowell all but crowned the California glam rocker the winner of Tuesday night's final performance show over Kris Allen, the acoustic guitar player who struggled mightily to stay in tune on "No Boundaries," co-written by the fourth "Idol" judge.

Lambert had no such trouble with the upper-register pop ballad, and Cowell said he genuinely believed the show had found a true star in the 27-year-old theater actor.

The judges were visibly deflated following Allen's version of "No Boundaries"—each was noncommittal, choosing to sound as if saying farewell to the 23-year-old heartthrob from Conway, Ark., rather than criticize his less-than-pitch-perfect performance.

"You have thoroughly, thoroughly deserved to be standing on this stage tonight," Cowell told Allen, who wore a slightly pained expression, as if he realized he'd missed the mark on that song.

Allen, a college student who has worked as a worship leader at his hometown church, told host Ryan Seacrest that he and Lambert aimed to forget competition and put on a good show. Still, that didn't keep Lambert from bringing his A-game, making Allen pale in comparison.

The two performed three songs apiece: a favorite past performance from this season; a tune selected by "Idol" creator Simon Fuller; and last but not least, DioGuardi's "No Boundaries."

For his first song, Lambert sang one of his greatest "Idol" hits, wearing a long, dark coat during the brooding arrangement of "Mad World" featured in the cult movie "Donnie Darko." While generally well-received, Cowell declared his goth getup to be too much, and a more conservatively dressed Allen followed up strong, reprising his rendition of "Ain't No Sunshine" on piano.

Cowell unequivocally declared Allen the "winner" of the first round.

"When your name was announced last week, I wasn't sure that America had made the right choice," Cowell said. "I absolutely take all that back now after that performance."

But Lambert easily bounced back for Round Two. He replaced his gloomy frock with a suit and tie for the second round of the sing-off and performed the Sam Cooke classic "A Change Is Gonna Come." The effect was soulful and propulsive, flaunting Lambert's vocal range and theatrical delivery.

"That was the best I've ever heard you sing—ever!" crowed Paula Abdul.

Next up, Allen turned to his trusty guitar for the Marvin Gaye tune "What's Going On."

Cowell dismissed the interpretation as lightweight, saying it sounded like "three friends in their bedroom strumming along to Marvin Gaye. ... I thought it was too laid-back for a night like this." He then gave Round Two to Lambert.

Both singers had rough spots in the swelling ballad co-written by DioGuardi, but where Lambert capably rose to the high notes, Allen failed and fell flat; it was clear from the look on his face that he knew he'd been beaten.

Though Cowell made no declaration of a winner for the final round, it was clear from the entire panel's concessionary remarks that they knew it, too.

But this is "American Idol," and America decides.

The winner will be named on Wednesday night's final results show.

The view from the 'Idol' audience

By DERRIK J. LANG
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Here's what one writer was seeing from his vantage point inside the Nokia Theatre at the "American Idol" final performance (Row H, seat 401—way back in the loge).

■ ■ ■

The lobby is energized as the audience slowly tromps in through security. Some folks immediately line up to purchase merchandise. The Adam Lambert T-shirts—no metal studs, just black and blue lettering—seem to be selling at a slightly brisker pace than Kris Allen's garb.

■ ■ ■

Stars: They're just like "Idol" fans! Debra Messing and two young boys (one looks to be 5-year-old son Roman) frantically shuffle into the concession line for a snack before heading inside to their seats.

■ ■ ■

Sixth season runner-up Blake Lewis is mobbed by fans in the lobby. He stays to sign autographs and pose for photos even as the lobby lights flash, beckoning for the crowd to take their seats.

■ ■ ■

The show starts and this crowd seems split down the middle. The Adam howls are as deafening as the Kris wails. While many fans hold up homemade signs - "Adam on the Eve of Becoming 'American Idol'" reads one—there's several printed yellow Kris signs sprinkled throughout.

■ ■ ■

As the smoke begins to clear and the judges critique Lambert's first song, several audience members yelp their love for Lambert. First it's a couple of high pitched girls - then a deep-voiced man grunts "I love you, Adam!"

■ ■ ■

Allen doesn't get as much standing-ovation attention from the audience after his performance of "Ain't No Sunshine," but everyone erupts when Cowell announces him as the winner of Round One.

■ ■ ■

Simon Cowell isn't a total meanie—during a commercial break he stops to hug stage manager Debbie Williams, who tumbled off the "Idol" set's stairs a few weeks back, before he heads backstage.

■ ■ ■

Lambert's bluesy rendition of "A Change is Gonna Come" once again makes the audience come to their feet, but some of the older crowd members sit this one out.

■ ■ ■

Uh oh. This may officially be a Lambert crowd. Kris' second song, Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On," barely gets a reception. And the audience warmup guy has trouble giving away Allen merchandise to 5-year-old girl.

■ ■ ■

In case you hadn't noticed yet, the "Idol" stage at the Nokia Theatre has been outfitted with a shorter, wider staircase, huge monitors and an itty-bitty pit of audience members in front of the judge's desk.

■ ■ ■

Other than the pit, there are exactly two people standing throughout Allen's "No Boundaries" performance: booted contestants Jorge Nunez and Scott MacIntyre.

■ ■ ■

Cell phones aren't allowed in the Nokia Theatre, so this crowd won't be voting until they get back to their cars. Maybe that's why several decided to skip out on Carrie Underwood crooning "Home Sweet Home"?

■ ■ ■

After the show is over, Allen and Lambert come back onstage to film one of those ominously lit elimintion shots for Wednesday's episode. All the lights in the Nokia Theatre are shut off except for nine spotlights beaming down on the two singers as they stare at the camera. For a moment, everything is calm, and then people start chanting: "Adam, Adam, Adam...."

NY auction house offers poem by a young Bob Dylan

NEW YORK (AP)—Long before he became famous for such tunes as "Blowin' in the Wind," Bob Dylan's social consciousness and artistry were evident in a poem he penned about a little dog who met a tragic end.

Dylan was just 16—and still going by his given name Bob Zimmerman—when he wrote "Little Buddy" in the summer of 1957 for the newspaper at Herzl Camp in Webster, Wis.

Now the poem is being offered for sale at a Christie's auction, where it is expected to sell for $10,000 to $15,000 on June 23.

Fellow camper and editor of the Herzl Herald, Lisa Heilicher, has decided to sell the poem to help support the camp's $8 million capital campaign.

"I kept it with all of my stuff that I collected from camp," Heilicher said in a telephone interview from her home in Minneapolis. "When I realized how famous he had become, I put it in a piece of plastic and stuck it in an encyclopedia"—under the letter 'Z' for Zimmerman.

Written on both sides of a single page, the poem tells the poignant story of Little Buddy, who is killed at the hands of a drunkard, and the boy who mourns him.

"He was such a lovely doggy/ And to me he was such fun/ But today as we played by the way/ A drunken man got mad at him/ Because he barked in joy/ He beat him and he's dying here today," the poem reads.

"It's a very early example of his brilliance," Simeon Lipman, Christie's pop culture specialist, said. "It comes from the mind of a teenager (with) some very interesting thoughts kind of percolating in his brain."

Besides the summer they spent at the 120-acre camp, Heilicher and Dylan both attended the University of Minnesota as freshmen. But after that, they lost touch. So when Heilicher decided to sell the poem, Herzl Camp asked Dylan's nieces and nephews who work for the camp to tell him about her decision.

Dylan, who turns 68 on Sunday, told camp officials, "Do what you want with it," said Holly Guncheon, Herzl's development director.

Several other pieces of Dylan writing are being offered at the pop culture sale, including his working lyrics for "With God on Our Side," an early song estimated to bring $20,000 to 25,000.

Dylan's 1958 yearbook from Hibbing (Minn.) high school is expected to bring $6,000 to $8,000, and contains a typical high school inscription to a classmate. It says in part: "Dear Brenda, Well, I didn't see you too much this year but you know what went on in study hall was just kidding ..."

King siblings oppose film deal struck by brother

ATLANTA (AP)—DreamWorks plans the first big-screen portrayal of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life, the studio announced Tuesday, but two of King's children immediately threatened legal action because the film deal was brokered without their blessing.

DreamWorks touted the project in a press release as the first theatrical motion picture authorized by the estate using King's intellectual property, including copyrighted speeches and other works, as the basis for the film. Steven Spielberg was listed as a co-producer. The only other film about King that made it to theaters was a documentary that was shown for one day in 1970.

Dexter King, one of the late civil rights leader's sons, said in a press release that he hoped the movie would "be the definitive film" on his father's legacy. Two other King siblings—Bernice King and Martin Luther King III—said they had no input in the deal.

Dexter is the chairman and chief executive officer of King, Inc.

"This is a deal that Mr. Spielberg and his people ... have entered into believing that they have the blessing of The King Estate. They don't have the blessings of Bernice and Martin King," Bernice King told The Associated Press in a telephone interview on Tuesday after finding out about the deal in an e-mail from Dexter King.

A spokesman for Dexter King did not immediately return a phone call Tuesday afternoon.

The three siblings have been involved in several legal disputes regarding their parents' intellectual property in the past year. Bernice King and Martin Luther King III have accused their brother of tarnishing their parents' legacy with his business decisions, and say he has been operating The King Estate for years without their input.

A star flips to become the new 'Dancing' champ

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shawn Johnson is adding a mirrorball trophy to her collection of Olympic medals.

The 17-year-old gymnast was named "Dancing With the Stars" champion Tuesday during the season finale of the hit ABC show.

The winning couple held the mirrorball trophy aloft as the rest of the contestants rushed out to greet them, hoisting them into the air as sparkling confetti flew.

"This has been the best experience ever," Johnson said after her victory. "I've grown so much."

Johnson was tied with fellow finalist Gilles Marini after Melissa Rycroft was dismissed earlier in Tuesday's show.

All three finalists performed one last dance, each earning a perfect score of 30 from the judges. Viewer votes are combined with judges' scores to determine the "Dancing" champ.

Show host Tom Bergeron said "less than 1 percent" separated the two finalists.

"This has been, without a doubt the best season ever," said head judge Len Goodman. "We've got the three best dancers here in the final."

"I'm so happy for Shawn and Mark. They worked so hard," Marini said, referring also to Mark Ballas, Johnson's professional dance partner.

Johnson had a scare in March when a 34-year-old man allegedly tried to break onto the "Dancing With the Stars" set, apparently to meet her. Police say Robert O'Ryan, who remains in custody on a stalking charge, jumped a fence at the studio lot after driving from Florida in a car loaded with guns, duct tape and love letters to Johnson. Filings by her parents said the incident caused her to fear for her safety.

But Johnson shook off the incident and used her athleticism to better effect with each passing week, looking less like a rigid, underaged gymnast and more like a powerful yet graceful dancer as she gained confidence.

On Tuesday, former contestant Jeffrey Ross came back for a little comic relief, roasting the three finalists, calling them, "the underage, the unwed and the unpronounceable."

Tuesday's season finale also featured a performance by Lady Gaga and the finale of the new pro-dancer competition. Anna Damidova competed with three other professional dancers for a spot on next season's "Dancing With the Stars."

Previously dismissed celebrities—including Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, rodeo champ Ty Murray, funnyman Steve-O, singer Belinda Carlisle, rapper Lil Kim, former football star Lawrence Taylor, country singer Chuck Wicks, reality star Holly Madison, and actors David Alan Grier and Denise Richards—returned for a last dance.

In this May, 18, 2009 photo released by ABC, Shawn Johnson, left, and Mark Ballas perform during Dancing with the Stars in Los Angeles.

AP

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Terminator Salvation
Thursday 4:15 7:30 10:00
Christian Bale, Sam Worthington
Action, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The year is 2018. Judgment Day has come and gone, leveling modern civilization. An army of Terminators roams the post-apocalyptic landscape, killing or collecting humans where they hide in the desolate cities and deserts. But small groups of survivors have organized into a Resistance, hiding in underground bunkers and striking when they can against an enemy force that vastly outnumbers them.

★ ★ ★

Angels and Demons
Thursday 4:20 7:05 9:50
Tom Hanks, Ewan McGregor
Thriller, Religion • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
When Robert Langdon discovers evidence of the resurgence of an ancient secret brotherhood known as the Illuminati—the most powerful underground organization in history—he also faces a deadly threat to the existence of the secret organization's most despised enemy: the Catholic Church. When Langdon learns that the clock is ticking on an unstoppable Illuminati time bomb, he jets to Rome, where he joins forces with Vittoria Vetra, a beautiful and enigmatic Italian scientist.

Star Trek
Thursday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Chris Pine, Winona Ryder
Sci-Fi, Adaptation • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The story of a young crew's maiden voyage onboard the most advanced starship ever created: the U.S.S. Enterprise. On a journey filled with cosmic peril, the new recruits must find a way to stop an evil being whose mission of vengeance threatens all of mankind. The fate of the galaxy rests in the hands of bitter rivals. One, James T. Kirk, is a delinquent, thrill-seeking Iowa farm boy.

X-Men Origins:Wolverine
Thursday 4:05 7:10 9:35
Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

T-2 (Tenement 2)
Thursday 4:25 7:20 9:30
Maricel Soriano, Mika Dela Cruz
Action, Adventure • Rated NR

X-Men Origins:Wolverine
Thursday 4:30 7:25 9:55
Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Ghost of Girlfriends Past
Thursday 4:10 7:15 9:40
Matthew McConaughhey, Jennifer Garner
Romantic, Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Prosecutors seek 19 years to life for Phil Spector

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A prosecutor asked a judge Tuesday to sentence music producer Phil Spector to 19 years to life in prison for his second-degree murder conviction in the shooting death of actress Lana Clarkson.

Although the mandatory sentence is 15 years to life, Deputy District Attorney Alan Jackson said in his motion that four years should be added for personal use of a gun—a circumstance that can draw an extra three, four or 10 years.

Spector, 69, a legend in the world of rock music, was found guilty April 13 by the second jury to hear his case. His first trial ended in a jury deadlock. Clarkson, who starred in the 1985 cult film "Barbarian Queen," died of a gunshot fired in her mouth as she sat in the foyer of Spector's mansion in 2003.

Prosecutors argued Spector had a history of threatening women with guns when they tried to leave his presence. The defense claimed she killed herself.

Besides prison time, Jackson asked that Spector be ordered to pay at least $26,500 in restitution to the Clarkson family to cover funeral and mental health costs. The motion included bills submitted by Clarkson's sister but said further expenses may be filed later.

The Clarkson family also has sued Spector for unspecified damages. No trial date has been set for that case.

Spector, who is being held in Los Angeles County Jail, is to be sentenced on May 29.

In the motion, Jackson provided details of the shooting that were not proven by direct evidence at the trial.

"Spector had pulled a loaded gun from the bureau drawer and threatened Lana with it as she attempted to leave the residence," he said. "As Lana was seated in a chair by the back door with her purse slung on her right shoulder Spector produced the gun, the end result of which was Lana being shot through the mouth as she recoiled in fear."

Since there were no witnesses to the shooting, the claims were offered based on circumstantial evidence and the testimony of women who said Spector pulled guns on them in the past.

"Spector had been pulling guns on women for decades," Jackson said in his sentencing memorandum.

Spector's lawyer, Doron Weinberg, did not immediately return a call seeking comment after the motion was filed. He said earlier in the day he would file a defense sentencing memorandum next week.

Cops: Man arrested in LA shooting death of rapper

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Up-and-coming rapper Dolla was killed in a shooting at an upscale shopping mall, and a man was arrested for investigation of murder, police said Tuesday.

Los Angeles County Coroner's spokesman Ed Winter said the man killed Monday afternoon at the Beverly Center was 21-year-old Roderick Anthony Burton II, the birth name of rapper Dolla.

Police said in a statement Tuesday that Aubrey Louis Berry, 23, of Atlanta, was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport with a gun Monday night. His bail was set at $1 million.

Burton is among a growing list of slain rappers, including Tupac Shakur in 1996, the Notorious B.I.G. in 1997, Jam Master Jay of Run-DMC in 2002 and Deshaun "Proof" Holton in 2006.

Burton was shot several times in a parking structure at the Beverly Center and was declared dead at a hospital, police said.

Police did not say what may have motivated the killing. An autopsy had not yet been performed on Burton by Tuesday afternoon, and charges against Berry had not yet been presented to prosecutors. Records in Georgia show that neither Burton nor Berry had served time in state prison.

"Dolla was trying to be a role model for other kids who had similar childhood experiences," said Laura Wright, Burton's publicist.

Another woman the Los Angeles Times identified as the Burton's publicist, Sue Vannasing, said the rapper was waiting at a valet stand after a shopping trip when he was shot. She did not respond to repeated calls and e-mails from The Associated Press seeking additional comment.

Police said Berry was found hours later in a ticketing area of Los Angeles International Airport. He was believed to have dropped off a rental car before he was found, said airport police Sgt. Jim Holcomb.

"As the officers approached the suspect, they asked him `Do you know why we're here?'" Holcomb told the AP. "He put his (hands) up in the air and said `Yes, I've got a gun in my waistband. Don't shoot me.'"

Airport police found a loaded 9mm semiautomatic handgun and turned Berry over to Los Angeles police.

Dolla, a protege of hip-hop artist Akon, worked on the soundtrack for the 2006 dance film "Step Up" and recently released two singles with Akon: "Like This" and "She So Fine."

Dolla was "an incredible artist," Akon's Konvict Entertainment said in a statement Tuesday. "This is a senseless crime and the industry has lost a real talent. Our heart goes out to his family, friends, and fans," it said.

Dolla's MySpace page said he once modeled for Diddy's Sean John clothing line and was signed to Jive and Elektra record labels.

AP

In this image released by the International Criminal Court, movie star and activist Angelina Jolie, left, is seen with chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo, right, during a visit to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, Tuesday May 19 2009.

Angelina Jolie watches child soldiers trial

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Angelina Jolie sat in a courtside booth Tuesday at the International Criminal Court and watched the trial of a Congolese warlord charged with using child soldiers.

In a statement released by the court, Jolie, a mother of six, said the case against Thomas Lubanga is a "landmark trial for children" and paid tribute to the former child soldiers who travel to the court's seat in The Hague to testify.

"After watching the proceedings from the viewing booth, I stood up and found Thomas Lubanga Dyilo looking at me," Jolie said. "I imagined how difficult it must be for all the brave young children who have come to testify against him."

Tuesday's visit was Jolie's second to the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal in less than two years. The goodwill ambassador for the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR said children deserve special protection during wars.

"Using children in conflict is a heinous crime and destroys the very fabric of a society," she said.

Jolie also met with the court's chief prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, during her private visit to the court.

Lubanga, founder and former leader of the Union of Congolese Patriots political movement and its armed wing, has pleaded innocent to charges of recruiting and using child soldiers in tribal conflicts in 2002-2003.

His is the first international trial to focus solely on child soldiers. It started in January and is expected to continue throughout this year.

The United Nations estimates up to 250,000 child soldiers still fight in more than a dozen countries.

Chace Crawford to step into 'Footloose' role

AP

In this photo taken on on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009, actor Chace Crawford poses on the press line at the Elton John Academy Award viewing and after party in West Hollywood, Calif.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chace Crawford is stepping into the starring role in the remake of "Footloose." The "Gossip Girl" actor will reprise the role that made Kevin Bacon a heartthrob back in 1984. Paramount Pictures said Tuesday that Crawford will star as Ren McCormack, the bad boy in a small town who brings everyone together with his daring moves.

Kenny Ortega, the mastermind behind the "High School Musical" movies, will direct. HSM star Zac Efron originally was set to play the part but dropped out of the project in March.

News of Crawford's casting was first reported online by Us Weekly magazine. Us said Crawford had been in contract negotiations for a while, and was struggling to make the movie work with his "Gossip Girl" schedule.

Sarah Jessica Parker is concerned for surrogate

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sarah Jessica Parker says she's concerned for the safety and well-being of the surrogate through whom she and husband Matthew Broderick are expecting twins.

The "Sex and the City" star tells "Access Hollywood" that the attention has led to an invasion of the woman's privacy. Parker says the stress has taken its toll on her, and she worries about her "and the safe delivery of our children."

The 44-year-old says in an interview airing Tuesday on NBC that the surrogate's telephone and computer have been hacked into, and she's received threats. Parker says it hasn't ended there: "She's had friends threatened and family threatened and she's had family of friends threatened."

"I care deeply about her and I am incredibly outraged by the sort of extraordinary and unprecedented invasion of her privacy," says Parker. "I think even given the unfortunate way we live now in this unending appetite for the more salacious information, it has still shocked me, and it has still really disappointed me."

Parker said a pregnant friend of the surrogate was also chased by the paparazzi.

"She's had a friend who was thought to be her chased down a highway ... This friend is nine months pregnant—chased down a highway by photographers and dare I call them 'reporters.' I guess that's how they identify themselves," she said. "It's crossed lines—Pretty much all the lines have been crossed."

The couple has a 6-year-old son, James Wilkie Broderick.

Police: Kim Kardashian's shop vandalized

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Police say a South Beach store owned by reality TV star Kim Kardashian and her sisters has been vandalized.

Miami Beach Police spokeswoman Deborah Doty said Tuesday that a section of the front window of the store, Dash Miami, was scratched and the letters "GUK" were painted in black on the window frame.

On her Web site Kourtney Kardashian said that a store employee discovered the vandalism.

She said the graffiti wasn't targeting her or her sisters Kim and Khloe.

The store has yet to open, but it will be featured in a new reality show.

King Kong to return to Universal Studios in 2010

LOS ANGELES (AP)—King Kong will be back, furry arms swinging, at Universal Studios Hollywood.

The studio says in a release Tuesday that a new 3-D attraction featuring the great ape will open in summer 2010 as part of its famed tour.

The tour's towering robotic King Kong was destroyed last June when a fire ripped through part of the studio's back lot.

Roofers using a blowtorch accidentally started the blaze, which also destroyed New York Street and other sets. Those are expected to reopen this summer.

Officials say the new King Kong attraction is based on Peter Jackson's 2005 film.

Guests will wear special glasses as they ride trams into a darkened soundstage. There, via 3-D digital projection, they will be transported to Skull Island, fending off giant bats and witnessing a brawl between King Kong and a dinosaur.

Tourists' national naivete is cause for embarrassment

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: The letter from "Cheri-Ann in Honolulu" (Feb. 21), who wanted to remind your readers that Hawaii is indeed one of the 50 states, reflects the lack of reasonable preparation on the part of tourists.

My son lives in Hawaii and over the years we have visited him many times. The questions I have heard travelers ask flight attendants as they deplane in Honolulu run the gamut: "Where do I go to change money?" "Which side of the road do 'they' drive on?" "Is it safe here when it rains?" or "Is English widely spoken?" I think I've heard them all.

ALOHA FROM ALICE IN BERKELEY

DEAR ALICE: Some of the letters I received in response to Cheri-Ann's were surprising—and amusing. I hope she will take comfort in knowing that Hawaii isn't the only state that has been "overlooked." Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I am from Oregon and when I would go to visit family on the East Coast, some people did not know where my state is located. When I told them it was right above California, more than a few would then exclaim, "Oh, you're from Canada!"

DIANE IN PORTLAND, ORE.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I spent our honeymoon in Alaska. A girl on our cruise ship asked where we were from. When I replied, "Vermont," she asked what state it was in, "Maine or Massachusetts?" in answer to which I politely pointed out that Vermont is the nation's 14th state.

ERIC IN RUTLAND, VT.

DEAR ABBY: Twenty years ago I married a Navy man. We moved from our home state to Virginia, and I was asked where I was from. I replied, "New York." I was then asked, "What's it like to live in such a big city?" "No," I responded, "I live in upstate New York. I've never been to the city." Then I was asked, "What is 'upstate'?" and had to explain that upstate means in the middle area of New York STATE, only to hear, "There's a state called New York?!"

SANDY IN ITALY (THE COUNTRY)

DEAR ABBY: When people hear I'm from Kentucky's Appalachia region, they automatically ask if my boyfriend is also my cousin, if possum is my favorite dish and if I've ever heard of the Internet. Stereotypes still exist. Both Hawaiians and Appalachians have a long way to go before we will be accepted, in the eyes of some people, as "Americans."

KENTUCKY NATIVE

DEAR ABBY: I work for the tourism department in New Mexico and want Cheri-Ann to know she is not alone. We frequently have to respond to questions like, "Do I need a passport or visa to visit?" or, "Can I drink the water?" We even received a letter from a wedding magazine requesting information regarding our "traditional" customs for marriage so they could run an article on our "country." And yes, you CAN drink the water here.

MAX FROM THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

DEAR ABBY: I once had to ask a bank teller here in Florida how much it would cost to wire money from my account to a bank in Minnesota. She said, "Minnesota? Is that in the United States?" The sad thing is this woman actually handled money and accounts. No wonder our banks have to be bailed out.

JUDY IN NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FLA.

DEAR ABBY: People have asked me where I'm from. When I respond, "I'm from Delaware," I am then asked, "Is that a state?" To which I casually respond, "Yes. The first one." Maybe having a vice president from Delaware will finally "put us on the map."

FIRST STATE NATIVE

DEAR NATIVE: And having a president from Hawaii may help, too.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HI, CALVIN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MAKING PAPER HATS? CAN I MAKE ONE, TOO?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. THIS IS THE OFFICIAL CHAPEAU OF OUR TOP-SECRET CLUB, G.R.O.S.S. – GET RID OF SLIMY GIRLS!
"SLIMY GIRLS"?!
I KNOW THAT'S REDUNDANT, BUT OTHERWISE IT DOESN'T SPELL ANYTHING. NOW GO AWAY.
GIRLS AREN'T SLIMY!
DON'T GET GUNK ON ME. I TOOK A BATH LAST SATURDAY AND I'M ALL CLEAN.
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5/21

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

HEY, CAT
HEY, ROCK
JIM DAVIS 5-21
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WHAT'CHA DOIN'?
NOTHING MUCH. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WAITING FOR THE NEXT GLACIER
OH, TO BE A ROCK
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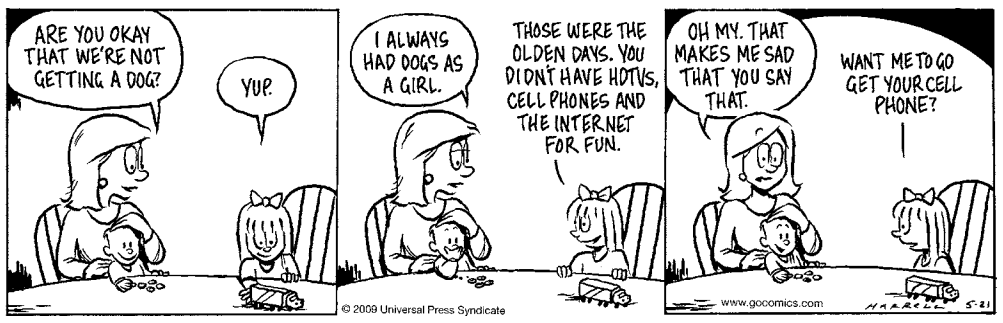
By Bryan Basset


ARE YOU OKAY THAT WE'RE NOT GETTING A DOG?
YUP.
I ALWAYS HAD DOGS AS A GIRL.
THOSE WERE THE OLDEN DAYS. YOU DIDN'T HAVE HDTVS, CELL PHONES AND THE INTERNET FOR FUN.
OH MY. THAT MAKES ME SAD THAT YOU SAY THAT.
WANT ME TO GO GET YOUR CELL PHONE?
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5-21

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Hammerhead part
5 Piña colada ingredient
8 Mosque bigwig
12 Dalai —
13 401(k) alternative
14 Unaltered
15 Elliptical
16 Show-biz job
17 Mothers and daughters
18 Mexico's national flower
20 Big lizard
22 Young newt
23 Apiece
24 Bit of banter
27 Marching along
32 Khan title
33 Actress Vardalos
34 Central point
35 Unsteady
38 Lettuce variety
39 Exist
40 Shock partner
42 Manor
45 At hand
49 Grand story
50 "— Blue?"
52 Home for hippos
53 Unrivaled
54 Skedaddled
55 Part of the loop
56 Use a wooden spoon
57 Architect I.M.
58 Early birds?

DOWN
1 Nitwit
2 Stromboli spillage
3 Asian nursemaid
4 Billfold
5 Tubular pasta
6 Swiss canton
7 Creche trio
8 Dispenser
9 Hindu royal
10 Congregational call
11 Small plateau
19 Kipling poem
21 Univ. transcript no.
24 Mandible
25 "I" trouble?
26 Gabriela of tennis fame
28 Diarist Anais
29 "24 Caprices for Solo Violin" composer
30 Fix the soundtrack
31 Recede
36 Tonic
37 Allow
38 Cap with a propeller
41 Lindbergh book
42 Morays
43 Location
44 O.K. Corral hero
46 Phone call?
47 Online journal
48 Longings
51 West of Hollywood

Solution time: 25 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 5-21

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21				
■	■	■	22			■	■	23			■	■
24	25	26		■	27	28	29				30	31
32			■	■	33			■	■	34		
35			36	37				■	38			
■	■	39			■	■	40	41		■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49				■	50	51		■	52			
53				■	54			■	55			
56				■	57			■	58			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ashlie Brillault, 22; Fairuza Balk, 35; Al Franken, 57; Mr. T, 57

Happy Birthday: You have decisions to make that will alter your life. Be perfectly clear about what you want or someone will misinterpret you. Stand alone, if you must, but do not give up your goals. It's up to you to stick it out to the end and to question whoever doubts you. Your numbers are 3, 6, 18, 22, 26, 33, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A challenge will be exhilarating and will boost your ego. Your hard work will pay off, allowing you to call the shots. You have someone awesome in your corner. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Do things because you want to not because someone else is pushing you. Keep your money tightly locked up. A longing to be with someone may cause you to do something foolish. Don't take a risk. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): An opportunity is heading your way that should allow you to get ahead in an area of your life that has been suffering. Look at what you can do to improve your popularity and status. Once you establish your position, it will be difficult for anyone to remove you from your post. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't expect to get help and you won't be let down when someone has other plans. Be quick to let everyone know what you are and are not willing to do. Don't get upset over something you cannot change. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Give in to what your heart tells you. A romantic encounter will crystallize your feelings, giving you a much better idea of how to satisfy your needs in the future. You may have to make a choice that may cause some controversy. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You can put personal matters behind you by addressing whoever or whatever has caused problems for you. Your ability to take responsibility will allow you to move on quickly. A money issue can be put to rest. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Network with groups that can offer a unique spin to what you do. Your relationships will grow if you get involved in activities your loved ones enjoy. By showing an interest in others, you will gain popularity. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't take chances. You will formulate the best possible situation to move into a lead position and take over a genre that fits your skills and personality perfectly. Working quickly will speak volumes. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Interact with people in your community to build the support you need for an important task. The more help you have, the better your chances for funding. A relationship will grow into something you can count on emotionally and financially. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You have to hold your ground. If you give in to someone who is giving you an ultimatum, you will be taken advantage of over and over again. Do not let fear cause you to dig a deeper hole. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Educational pursuits or honing your skills will help you land a better position or keep the one you already have. A love connection can be made through the company you keep at work or school. Get first hand information. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't give out too much information or you may face opposition. You have to complete a project or deal before you can feel secure that everything will turn out OK. Limitations due to poor decisions will result if you become overly sensitive and emotional. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are brave, outspoken and a great storyteller. You are not afraid of what others think or do. You believe in your own abilities.

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				3				
			2		9			
1		8		5		3		6
2								7
8			6		1			2
5								9
3		9		1		5		4
			4		7			
				6				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	5	1	6	4	3	8	9	7
9	3	6	7	2	8	4	1	5
7	8	4	1	5	9	3	6	2
5	1	7	9	8	6	2	3	4
6	2	9	4	3	5	7	8	1
8	4	3	2	7	1	9	5	6
3	6	2	5	9	7	1	4	8
4	9	5	8	1	2	6	7	3
1	7	8	3	6	4	5	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/20

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SEROTONIN **Solution: 6 letters**

E	M	O	R	D	N	Y	S	P	A	T	I	E	N	T
N	R	O	T	P	E	C	E	R	R	A	I	S	E	D
E	I	A	T	R	E	T	R	O	P	S	N	A	R	T
G	E	C	C	P	A	P	A	Y	A	O	A	E	E	S
S	L	I	A	O	M	O	S	V	I	S	H	R	G	Y
U	C	D	R	L	N	Y	E	S	E	Y	P	C	U	N
P	U	P	O	S	M	S	S	O	D	C	O	N	L	T
P	N	E	A	O	S	I	T	R	A	E	T	I	A	H
L	E	E	G	E	M	A	O	R	T	L	P	(H)	T	E
E	H	L	L	S	M	X	Y	I	I	L	Y	(E)	E	S
M	P	S	N	O	Y	A	R	V	U	C	R	(A)	L	I
E	A	A	T	L	G	D	E	M	R	E	T	(L)	A	Z
N	R	A	A	E	N	R	E	S	U	L	T	I	R	E
T	K	S	N	E	E	N	I	A	R	B	L	O	O	D
E	E	T	D	R	U	G	N	I	W	O	R	R	A	N

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Acid, Agent, Alter, Blood, Brain, Calm, Carya, Constriction, Dendrite, Drug, Gene, Heal, Hydroxylase, Increase, Liver, Mood, Narrowing, Oral, Papaya, Patient, Plum, Raise, Raphe nuclei, Receptor, Regulate, Result, Sleep, SSRI, Supplement, Symptom, Syndrome, Synthesized, Take, Tomatoes, Transmission, Transporter, Tryptophan, Vessels

Yesterday's Answer: Transfer

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Kobe scores 40 as Lakers beat Nuggets

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Those wildly inconsistent Lakers showed up for their Western Conference finals opener against Denver and still managed to defend their home court.

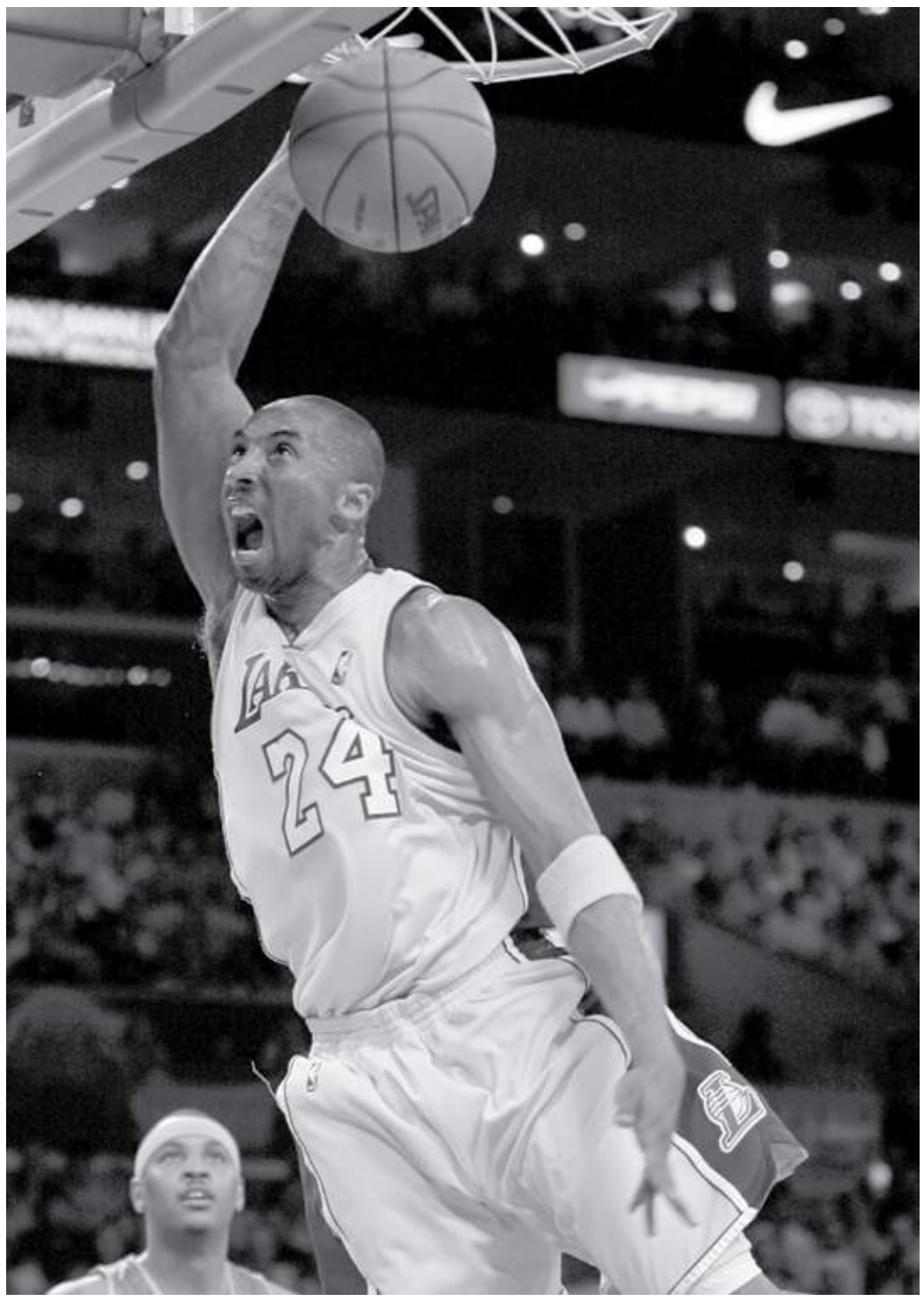
Kobe Bryant scored 40 points, including six free throws in the final 30 seconds, to lift Los Angeles to a 105-103 victory over the Nuggets on Tuesday night after the Lakers trailed most of the game.

Pau Gasol added 13 points and 14 rebounds and Derek Fisher had 13 points for the Lakers, who faced a seven-point deficit in the fourth quarter. Gasol's two free throws tied the game for the last time at 99 before Bryant went to the line, offsetting a 3-pointer by Chauncey Billups and a free throw by J.R. Smith.

Carmelo Anthony scored 39 points, Billups added 18 and Kenyon Martin had 15 for the Nuggets, who hadn't played since taking care of Dallas in five games last Wednesday.

Game 2 is Thursday in Los Angeles.

Bryant, who was 9 for 9 from the line in the fourth quarter, made two for a 101-99 lead with 30 seconds left. Trevor Ariza stole the inbounds near midcourt and the Lakers were able to run the clock down to 10 seconds when Bryant made two more free throws.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant dunks the ball against the Denver Nuggets during the first half of Game 1 of the NBA Western Conference finals playoff basketball series, Tuesday, May 19, 2009, in Los Angeles.

Billups hit a 3-pointer to get the Nuggets to 103-102 with 5 seconds left, but then Anthony fouled Bryant, who made his final two foul shots.

Smith made one free throw with 3.2 seconds left and missed the second intentionally. Bryant grabbed the game's last rebound.

"A good one, an important one," Bryant said of the win. "Like I told the guys in a timeout, this is a different series. We felt kind of down on ourselves with a slow start. ... I told them to forget about that, this is a different series."

The Lakers were back in action 48 hours after closing out Houston in seven games in the conference semifinals.

"We just had to push through it, we didn't come out with the kind of energy we wanted, guys were fatigued, a little tired," Bryant said. "But it was a gut check for us."

Denver led most of the game in its return to the conference finals for the first time in 24 years. But the Nuggets couldn't stop Bryant over the final 6:48, when he scored 15 points, including seven straight to help the Lakers improve to 7-1 at home in the playoffs. They are 8-0 this postseason when scoring 100 points.

Bryant got the better of Anthony, his U.S. Olympic teammate.

"It was a lot of fun, he's a bull down there," Bryant said. "I am a little out of my weight class, but I'll give it my best shot."

Neither team led by more than five points in the third quarter, when Laker starters Andrew Bynum and Ariza both picked up their fourth fouls.

The Lakers used a 9-0 run, including seven straight by Fisher, to go up 70-66. From there, though, the Nuggets ended the quarter on a 10-4 run to lead 76-74. Billups had five consecutive points, including a free throw after a technical foul on Bryant, in the spurt.

The Nuggets moved the ball well and aggressively drove the basket in taking a 13-point lead in the opening quarter, but hurt themselves by going 12 of 21 from the line in the half. Billups, who missed three free throws in the first two playoff series combined, missed his first three of the game.

The Nuggets controlled the first half, leading until the final 1:10 of the second quarter. That's when Josh Powell hit two free throws to give the Lakers their first lead.

The Nuggets went back in front before Fisher hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to send the Lakers into halftime leading 55-54. Fisher was 0 for 6 before connecting from the right baseline, which was emblematic of the Lakers' shooting woes. They hit 38 percent from the field, with Bryant going 7 of 16.

Clippers win lottery, will have top pick in draft

SECAUCUS, N.J. (AP)—Those longtime losers from Los Angeles were big winners Tuesday night.

The Clippers came across the country for what's practically an annual spring vacation and are going home with a nice souvenir: the No. 1 pick in next month's draft.

The Clippers won the draft lottery, moving up from the third-best chance to earn the top pick for the third time, earning the right to draft All-America forward Blake Griffin of Oklahoma, the national college player of the year.

Memphis vaulted to second and Oklahoma City will pick third.

Sacramento, which had the best chance to win the lottery after finishing with a league-worst 17-65 record, fell to fourth, and Washington dropped from second to No. 5.

The Clippers last had the No. 1 pick in 1998 and, perhaps predictably, blew it, taking eventual bust Michael Olowokandi.

They stand a better chance of getting it right this time if they go with Griffin, who led the nation with 30 double-doubles and 14.4 rebounds per game, while also averaging a Big 12-best 22.7 points as a sophomore.

Clippers president Andy Roeser, who represented the team on the podium, wouldn't confirm that they will choose Griffin, though they could certainly use a power forward after their former star Elton Brand left before last season as a free agent.

"I think five years from now Blake Griffin will be hitting his stride in the NBA and he will be an impact player wherever he is," said Roeser, whose sports jacket was lined with a Clippers uniform with a No. 1 on the left side and a 23, Griffin's number, on the other. "He is an athletic player. He can do all sorts of things and has a ton of talent, and I think any team will be happy to have him."

Though the Kings desperately need help, former All-Star Chris Webber, who represented them on the podium, said he loved the system.

"The worst team shouldn't always get the best player," he said. "You can do a lot of losing for that. I really like the system, it is fair.

"I think our system is very fair. It's unfortunate I didn't get what I wanted to get and the Sacramento fans didn't get what they wanted and the Oklahoma City fans didn't get what they wanted, but I think the system is fair."

Webber, who was also a power forward, seemed to agree Griffin is the way to go.

"I love Griffin's game. I think there is a lot of upside to his potential," Webber said. "He is a hardworking player. I love the guy. (Kevin Garnett) is one of my favorites and I think he is from that cloth. He had a lot of pressure on him, but I like the kid and hopefully, he has a fun career."

The top three teams all moved up, making the 25th lottery as unpredictable as most of its predecessors. Not since 2004, when Orlando took Dwight Howard, had the team with the best chance to win ended up with the No. 1 pick.

The draft is June 25.

Minnesota has the sixth pick followed by Golden State, New York, Toronto, Milwaukee, New Jersey, Charlotte, Indiana and Phoenix.

The Clippers also picked first in 1988, drafting Danny Manning. This was their 20th appearance in the draft lottery, which is supposed to help bad teams get better quickly. They can only hope that will finally be the case this time.

"Our goal is to be playing next year at this time," Roeser said.

The lottery had much bigger buzz in the past two years because there were two players who seemed worthy of going No. 1. Portland went for Greg Oden over Kevin Durant in 2007, and the Chicago Bulls moved up to get Rookie of the Year Derrick Rose last season, with Michael Beasley going second to Miami.

That wasn't the case this year, since Griffin seems like the only possible choice at No. 1. Spanish guard Ricky Rubio and Connecticut center Hasheem Thabeet are also considered top-three choices, but come with question marks: Rubio is still a teenager and Thabeet isn't polished offensively.

The lottery determines the top three picks, with the rest of the first round going by inverse order of a team's record. It began in 1985, when the New York Knicks selected Patrick Ewing.

76ers interview assistants Casey, Rambis for coach

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—In a wide open search for their next head coach, the Philadelphia 76ers dipped into the assistant ranks this week and interviewed Los Angeles Lakers assistant Kurt Rambis and Dallas Mavericks assistant Dwane Casey.

The Sixers confirmed on Tuesday that both men were interviewed for the job left open when Tony DiLeo stepped down last week and returned to the front office.

The timing of Rambis' interview was a bit of a surprise as the Lakers were preparing to play Game 1 of the Western Conference finals against Denver on Tuesday night. The 51-year-old Rambis was a key member of the Lakers' 1980s championship teams and is in his seventh season as Phil Jackson's assistant. He was the team's interim coach for 37 games in 1998-99, going 24-13, and also served as assistant general manager of the Lakers from 1999-2001.

Rambis declined to answer questions about the meeting before Game 1 other than to say, "It didn't happen today."

He was asked about meeting with the 76ers as he walked off the court before Game 1.

Casey interviewed on Tuesday and did not immediately respond to an e-mail left by The Associated Press. Sixers president Ed Stefanski is in Los Angeles on a scouting trip and has declined to comment on the search.

The Wolves went 33-49 in Casey's first year in 2006-07 and were 20-20 when vice president Kevin McHale fired him in 2007-08. He spent this season on Rick Carlisle's staff in Dallas.

The Sixers already interviewed former Wizards coach Eddie Jordan. They are set to interview Boston Celtics assistant Tom Thibodeau. No date has been announced for Thibodeau's interview.

Jeff Van Gundy, Thibodeau's former boss with the New York Knicks, also has been floated as a candidate. Van Gundy is an analyst for ESPN and declined to comment on his interest at halftime of the Denver-Lakers game.

"I'm not going to talk about another job when I got a job to do," he said.

Philadelphia went 41-41 and was eliminated from the playoffs in six games by the Orlando Magic. It was the second straight season the Sixers were eliminated in the first round.

Phillies beat Reds 4-3 for 5th in row

CINCINNATI (AP)—Philadelphia's Ryan Howard hit a solo homer, and left-hander Cole Hamels stayed unbeaten against the Cincinnati Reds with a 4-3 victory Tuesday night, the Phillies' fifth in a row.

The NL East leaders matched their best winning streak of the season with a solid performance by Hamels (2-2), who allowed five hits in six innings, including solo homers by Jay Bruce and Jerry Hairston Jr.

Hamels improved to 4-0 in five career starts against Cincinnati, allowing five earned runs in 36 innings. Brad Lidge escaped a threat in the ninth for his eighth save.

Howard's ninth homer off Johnny Cueto (4-2) helped the Phillies end his streak of four straight wins. Slumping Jimmy Rollins doubled home a run, and Pedro Feliz had two hits.

Diamondbacks 5, Marlins 3

At Miami, Mark Reynolds homered leading off a five-run seventh and Jon Garland pitched six strong innings to help lift the Diamondbacks past the Marlins.

It was Arizona's second straight win after dropping seven of eight.

Hanley Ramirez homered for Florida, which has lost seven of eight and 13 of 17.

Braves 8, Rockies 1

At Atlanta, Jair Jurrjens pitched seven strong innings and Casey Kotchman had three hits and three RBIs to help the Braves beat the Rockies.

Jurrjens (4-2) lowered his ERA to 1.96 by scattering three hits and allowing one run in seven innings. The right-hander struck out a season-high eight and walked three.

Cardinals 3, Cubs 0

At St. Louis, Joel Pineiro threw a three-hitter for his first shutout in six seasons and first complete game since 2006 as the Cardinals snapped a three-game slide with a victory over the Cubs.

Colby Rasmus hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning for the Cardinals, who rebounded after getting swept in a three-game series by the Brewers. St. Louis has won only three of 10 overall, but expects to get pitcher Chris Carpenter and outfielder Rick Ankiel back for Wednesday's game.

Pirates 8, Nationals 5, 10 innings

At Washington, Adam LaRoche had a two-run double in the 10th inning, and the Pirates won their season-high fourth straight, beating the Nationals, who lost their sixth in a row.

Both streaks feature plenty of offense.

The Pirates are averaging 9.5 runs in their last four games, including 11 against Colorado on Sunday and 12 against the Nationals on Monday.

Brewers 4, Astros 2

At Houston, Dave Bush pitched six solid innings to remain unbeaten and Trevor Hoffman earned his 10th save, leading the Brewers over the Astros for their seventh straight win.

J.J. Hardy drove in two runs for Milwaukee and Prince Fielder had an RBI and two runs scored. Bush (3-0) allowed two runs and seven hits for the NL Central leaders, who have won 13 of 15.

Padres 2, Giants 1

At San Diego, Barry Zito's first complete game since 2003 was spoiled by home runs by Scott Hairston and Nick Hundley, which carried the Padres to a win over the Giants.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Ryan Howard rounds the bases after hitting a solo home run off Cincinnati Reds pitcher Johnny Cueto (47) in the second inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, May 19, 2009, in Cincinnati.

The Padres won their fourth straight game. Randy Winn had three hits for the Giants, who lost for the fifth time in six games and dropped to .500.

Dodgers 5, Mets 3

At Los Angeles, Casey Blake hit a go-ahead, three-run homer off John Maine in the sixth inning and the Dodgers scored earlier with the help of another Mets error.

Chad Billingsley (6-1) struck out seven in 6 1-3 innings for the win, helping the NL West champions improve their major league-leading record to 28-13 and extend their division lead over San Francisco to 7 1/2 games.

Yankees 9, Orioles 1

At New York, Alex Rodriguez and Mark Teixeira launched more long home runs, CC Sabathia dominated into the late innings and the New York Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles for their seventh win in a row.

Rodriguez homered for the fourth straight game, connecting for a two-run shot in the first inning. It was the 558th of his career, putting him five behind Reggie Jackson for 11th place on the all-time list—before the game, A-Rod and Mr. October visited in the clubhouse.

Red Sox 2, Blue Jays 1

At Boston, David Ortiz went hitless in his return to the Boston lineup, and the Red Sox got their offense from the bottom of the order to help Tim Wakefield beat the AL East-leading Blue Jays.

No. 8 hitter Jeff Bailey singled in a run and No. 9 hitter George Kottaras drove in the other with a sacrifice fly as Wakefield (5-2) held Toronto to one run on five hits over eight innings. The knuckleballer gave up a solo homer to former teammate Kevin Millar(notes), but no other Blue Jays made it as far as third base.

Athletics 4, Rays 1, 11 innings

At St, Petersburg, Fla., Matt Holliday hit a three-run homer during a four-run 11th inning to help the Athletics beat the Rays.

Holliday hit his fifth homer of the season on a two-out, 3-2 pitch from Joe Nelson. Adam Kennedy later added an RBI double.

Tigers 4, Rangers 0

At Detroit, Dontrelle Willis earned his first victory with the Tigers, allowing one hit while working into the seventh inning in a win against the Rangers.

Willis (1-0), the former All-Star who began the season on the disabled list because of an anxiety disorder, struck out five in 6 1-3 innings in his second start since coming off the DL.

The victory extended Detroit's winning streak to four games and halted the Rangers' seven-game winning streak.

Royals 6, Indians 5

At Kansas City, Mo., Mike Jacobs and Mark Teahen hit back-to-back home runs off Indians closer Kerry Wood and Willie Bloomquist capped the four-run ninth inning with a game-winning sacrifice fly as the Royals beat Cleveland.

David DeJesus tripled to score pinch-runner Mitch Maier to tie it at 5 after the home runs. e Bloomquist's flyball to right scored DeJesus.

White Sox 6, Twins 2

At Chicago, Paul Konerko hit a two-run homer and Mark Buehrle pitched seven solid innings to help the White Sox snap a five-game losing streak with a win over the Twins.

Jermaine Dye homered and Jim Thome added a two-run double in the seventh for the White Sox, who won for just the fourth time in 16 games.

Angels 6, Mariners 5

At Seattle, Bobby Abreu had three hits and a pair of RBI to help Matt Palmer win his fifth straight start as the Angels took advantage of sloppy play by the Mariners.

Abreu had a first-inning RBI single and sixth-inning, run-scoring double. He also singled and scored in the fifth. Maicer Izturis had a pair of singles and scored three times as the Angels pounded out 14 hits.

Dome sweet dome: New Orleans gets 2013 Super Bowl

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—New Orleans is a Super Bowl city again.

NFL owners voted Tuesday to play the 2013 Super Bowl in New Orleans, the first time the championship will be played there since Hurricane Katrina shredded parts of the Louisiana Superdome. The hurricane caused 1,600 deaths and devastated the Gulf Coast four years ago.

New Orleans beat out Miami, which sought a record 11th Super Bowl, and 2008 host Glendale, Ariz. This is the 10th time New Orleans will be the Super Bowl site.

"We're just thrilled about what's going on," Saints owner Tom Benson said. "We're getting a new Superdome. Now we're going to get a Super Bowl on top of that. It couldn't be any more exciting than that."

New Orleans last hosted in 2002, when Adam Viniateri's 48-yard field goal as time expired lifted New England over St. Louis.

Benson said he was congratulated by the owners, even those who saw Super Bowl bids for their city get voted down.

"All are great Super Bowl cities," said Rita Benson LeBlanc, a part-owner of the Saints and Tom Benson's granddaughter. "But no city has been through more than New Orleans. ... This is just a true testament to what an entire community can do."

Still unclear: Where will the 2013 Pro Bowl be played? It's coming to Miami a week before this coming season's Super Bowl, then going back to Hawaii in 2011 and 2012. It was not part of the bidding process for the 2013 Super Bowl.

Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross congratulated New Orleans, yet also said he was "disappointed" that the 2013 game won't be coming to South Florida. Shortly after the vote was announced, local organizers said South Florida was hopeful of bidding in 2014 as well.

"I think South Florida is the best place for the Super Bowl," Ross said. "In my opinion, it should be here permanently."

Louisiana lawmakers are debating plans to spend $85 million in Superdome upgrades, which would be completed in time for the 2013 NFL title game. The upgrades would include additional seating, new suites, wider concourses and other measures for the New Orleans Saints to generate new revenue streams.

"The membership heard from three great cities today and had some terrific alternatives," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said. "But I think this is a great statement about the spirit and people of New Orleans and the great relationship the Saints and the NFL have in that community."

The Superdome played an iconic role during Katrina, which struck the city in August 2005. It was an evacuation center during the storm, housing thousands of people who had nowhere else to go. Within days, the building was tattered, filthy inside from mold, debris and raw sewage.

The Saints needed to leave their home city, then returned to great fanfare in September 2006 - a night many in New Orleans point to as perhaps the most poignant sign that normalcy was returning.

"(That) had an emotional impact on this city that carried the hearts of New Orleanians for the next two years," said J. Stephen Perry, the president of the New Orleans metropolitan convention and visitors bureau. "And this announcement today, I will tell you, will have jubilation in the streets."

The stories of suffering are still everywhere. Even now, some who lost nearly everything in 2005 are fighting to keep their federally provided trailers a bit longer.

Still, New Orleans clearly didn't forget how to host an event. College football's national championship game was played there in 2008, followed about six weeks later by the NBA All-Star game—and now football's biggest spectacle.

"This is a huge win for New Orleans, but also the entire state of Louisiana," Gov. Bobby Jindal said.

Arizona also failed in bids for the 2011 and 2012 Super Bowls, which were awarded to new stadiums in North Texas and Indianapolis.

Cities mentioned as hopefuls for the 2014 Super Bowl include Tampa, Fla., and London, which will host a regular-season game for the third straight season when New England plays Tampa Bay on Oct. 25. London officials have been briefed on the Super Bowl bidding process, but the NFL has repeatedly said no serious talks about an international Super Bowl have taken place.

Sponsors line up to help Ron

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ronald Villafria's quest to scale Mt. Fuji a second time is creating a buzz in the local sports community, not to mention much-needed support to the Filipino runner.

With his Fuji Mountain Race July 25 date fast approaching, Villaria is happy to report that more than 30 companies and individuals have so far donated financially for his Japan trip.

Aside from going the rounds of establishments the past several weeks to ask for support, Villafria is also calling on the community to take part in his Run 4 Ron II fundraiser set for this Sunday, May 24.

Villfaria said the five-kilometer race will start at the Micro Beach pavilion and will have participants run north toward the old Puerto Rico dumpsite and back.

Entry fee for the Run 4 Ron II fundraiser is $15 and will entitle participants to a free event T-shirt, refreshments after the race, and a ticket to the raffle drawing following the event.

Villafria took part in the 2008 Fuji Mountain Race, or Fuji Tozan Race, in July 25, 2009 and finished the 36-kilometer trek up and down the 12,388-foot mountain in four hours and 20 minutes.

The Mt. Fuji Marathon or Fuji Tozan Race is composed of two legs, a 15-kilometer race to the fifth station of the mountain and a 21-km race all the way to the top. The final six-kilometers of the race is also a trail run.

Villafria was one of only 6,000 participants that have been prescreened to take part in the 2009 edition of the Fuji Mountain Race.

Last year, a total of 120 signed up for the first Run 4 Ron fundraiser with 70 taking part in the actual run.

Businesses and individuals who have already donated to Villafria's Mt. Fuji quest, include Salon de Manila, DFS Galleria, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Hard Rock Café Saipan, LBT Appraisal, Auto Glass Pro, Fomacon Liner, GEC Pawnshop, Jazy Sportswear, Island Apparel, Coco Restaurant, Micronesian Brokers, Inc., Custom Construction, Docomo Pacific, IT&E, Bike Pro, MARPAC (Michellob), Traders Insurance, Saipan Shopping, Godfather's Bar, Sherwin Williams, 888 Handyman Services, Western Union, Marianas Visitors Authority, Tan Holdings, Fiesta Resort & Spa, NRG-Shot (Distributed by Car Corp), Triple J, Bank Pacific, Steven Pixley, Susan Espanillo, Erwin Aquino, Bobby Mandapat, and John Ilao.

MARK RABAGO
Ronald Villafria, seen here crossing the finish line in the 2009 CNMI Half Marathon Championship, will host Run 4 Ron II to raise funds for his participation in the 2009 Fuji Mountain Race.

Chester is inaugural Ronelsie Cup champ

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Chester Hamoy was the first to raise the Ronelsie Cup after topping the unofficial "Battle of Billiards champions" last Thursday at the Round Two Bar and Grill.

Hamoy ruled an eight-man field after beating veteran cue artist Senen Pangilinan in the finals, 3-1, at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

The two got out of the first round to join Roger "The Ghost" Espiritu and Boyet Sequioco in the semifinals of the abbreviated tournament.

The tournament was supposed to be a competition among the 15 past champions of Round Two's regular Thursday 8-Ball Tournament, but when the tournament started, only eight showed up to play.

Hamoy got off to a fine start, beating jolly Eric Santos in a score of 3-1. It was probably the evening that rained 3-1, as the three other opening round matches ended in the same score.

Hamoy

Espiritu upended affable Chamorro pool practitioner Victor Hocog, 3-1; Pangilinan beat Primo Ferrera, 3-1; and Sequioco, who helped organized the event, defeated Juancho Mendoza, 3-1.

In the third round, Hamoy pulled off an upset of Espiritu, nicknamed The Ghost for his knack of spooking out opponents, by exorcising him in a score of 3-1.

Pangilinan, meanwhile, proved to be the steadier hand in his showdown with Sequioco, advancing to the championship round with another 3-1 victory.

In the finals, Hamoy continued his giant-killing ways by dominating his more experienced opponent in every turn to take the one-game championship and the $100 first place purse and Ronelsie Cup trophy. Pangilinan won $60 for all his troubles and a medal.

Aside from the eight who did show up Thursday, others invited in the Ronelsie Cup were Jerry Soriano, Rolly Villanueva Nolan Cultura, Eric Caisip, Patrick Taitano, Taylor Watanabe, and Jomer Enriquez.

Named after tournament sponsors Ronnie and Elsie Ringor, the special tournament was a race-to-three affair that used a single elimination format. It had an entry fee of $20.

Round Two Bar and Grill envisions to hold the Ronelsie Cup every three months. Meanwhile, its regular Thursday 8-Ball Tournament is held every Thursday with a $10 entry fee. Games start at 9pm. For more information about the competitions, contact Ricky Vertudez at 234-6930.

LEGENDS

From Page 28

Clutch baskets from Jun Tabora and end-game breaks saved the pennant champions Legends from an embarrassment. The Legends controlled the game early and led by as much as 15 points in the second quarter, 47-32, before Joseph Galulu, Leo Canedo, Martin Moreno, Ian Castro, and Bernard Montano teamed up in MDX's second-half recovery.

Galulu's floater moved MDX within two, 72-74, with less than two minutes left in the fourth quarter.

In the next Legends' offensive set, Ronald Delos Reyes lost the leather, but Tabora was at the right place at the right time to pick up the loose ball and pulled up for a 10-footer.

MDX fumbled on the other end, returning the possession to Legends, who drew another basket from Tabora to widen the gap, 78-72, with 50 seconds left in the game.

MDX made another error in the inbound play, passing the ball to the wrong guy, the Legends' Amor Zapata. The Chalan Kanoa point guard then went straight toward the basket, catching MDX's defense napping. Zapata made the open layup, giving the Legends an 80-72 lead and ending Armatech' chances for an upset.

The pennant champions need only to win against the Garapan Gigolos to gain the first finals ticket. If the Legends prevail, Gigolos and MDX Armatech will duel for the last finals seat.

Ed Palma anchored the Legends' good start, canning two triples and scoring 10 points in the first quarter. Tabora and Delos Reyes combined for 10 first-quarter points, as the Legends took a 22-18 lead, going into the second period.

Tabora picked up where he left off, nailing eight more points and the Legends outgunned MDX, 25-14, to increase the lead to 15 at halftime, 47-32.

The Legends played a bit lax in the second half, allowing MDX to mount a comeback before Tabors' baskets and Armatech's errors saved the day for the pennant champions.

Tabora and Delos Reyes paced the Legends with 20 points apiece, while Palma chipped in 16.

Montano led MDX with his 23 points. Canedo and Moreno finished in double figures with 16 and 10 markers, respectively.

Legends 82 – Tabora 20, Delos Reyes 20, Palma 16, Manipon 6, Musni 6, Pablo 4, Zapata 3, Pepito 3, Hernandez 2, Domingo 2.

MDX Armatech 74 – Montano 23, Canedo 16, Martin 10, Galulu 6, Castro 6, Samson 5, Malasarte 4, Singca 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-22, 47-32, 64-53, 82-74.

FIELDERS

From Page 28

and began hitting their targets to hand the former their ninth loss in 12 games.

The game was last tied at 3-all after three complete innings when a three-run top of the fourth allowed Ol'Aces to gain control of the match, 6-4. Simeon Nepaial made the Ol'Aces' seventh run on a Dennis Cruz's single.

Falcons 6, Aztecs 5

The Falcons foiled Aztecs' upset bid, pulling off a 6-5 win in nine innings last Saturday.

Navajo Falig made the game-winning hit with his single driving Tako Camacho home at the bottom of the ninth inning.

Ben Cabrera's sacrifice fly sent Ike Aldan home in the fifth inning and helped the Falcons tie the game at 5-all.

DOLPHINS

From Page 28

ters flied out.

Salty Boys 14, Aces 1

In another lopsided game, Salty Boys whipped Choll Aces, 14-1.

The victory was Salty Boys third in five games, putting them in a tie for third place with Choll Aces.

Salty Boys allowed Choll Aces to score only at the bottom of the sixth inning with second baseman Felix Romoket making it home on a Bernard Kileleman error.

Salty Boys tallied three runs apiece in the first and second inning, had two in the fifth and closed out with a six-run top of the seventh.

John Andres led Salty Boys' strong finish, hitting a two-run homer at the top of the seventh, while Highness Asanuma blasted a two-run triple.

Asanuma went 2-for-4 at the plate, scored two runs, and had three RBIs. Kileleman also had three RBIs after hitting 3-for-4, making one double, and notching three runs.

MASC

From Page 28

Shell Marianas, and Aquasmith Dive Shop.

He also thanked Saipan Fishermen's Association, Division of Fish and Wildlife, American Memorial Park, MRC, Rep. Joe Guerrero, Rep. Ray Tebuteb, Rep. Diego Benavente, Senate President Pete Reyes, volunteer weigh masters, Gene Weaver, Mike Tenorio, Katz Aldan, record master Richard Seman, Suzette Sasamoto, Jashim Udin, boat volunteers, Karl Reyes, Greg Camacho Sr., Greg Camacho Jr., Mr. Beches, and boat operators for making the event successful.

The 2009 edition of the Spearfishing Tournament saw Guamanians Myles Driscoll and Mike "Todd" Genereux win the individual and team competitions.

Driscoll topped the solo division with his haul of 86 lbs. followed by Genereux (64.5 lbs.) and Saipan's Scott Russell (49 lbs.).

Driscoll and Genereux teamed up to win the team competition with their total catch of 150.5 lbs. Scott Russell and Peter Houk, the defending champions, finished second with 75.5 lbs., while Felix and Greg Sasamoto settled for third place with their 64 lbs.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	27	15	.643	-
Boston	23	16	.590	2 1/2
New York	22	17	.564	3 1/2
Tampa Bay	20	21	.488	6 1/2
Baltimore	16	23	.410	9 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	21	16	.568	-
Kansas City	21	18	.538	1
Minnesota	18	22	.450	4 1/2
Chicago	16	21	.432	5
Cleveland	14	26	.350	8 1/2

West Division

Texas	23	15	.605	-
Los Angeles	20	18	.526	3
Seattle	17	22	.436	6 1/2
Oakland	14	22	.389	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE
East Division

Philadelphia	21	16	.568	-
New York	21	18	.538	1
Atlanta	19	19	.500	2 1/2
Florida	18	21	.462	4
Washington	11	27	.289	10 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	25	14	.641	-
Chicago	21	16	.568	3
St. Louis	22	17	.564	3
Cincinnati	20	18	.526	4 1/2
Pittsburgh	18	21	.462	7
Houston	17	20	.459	7

West Division

Los Angeles	28	13	.683	-
San Francisco	19	19	.500	7 1/2
San Diego	17	22	.436	10
Arizona	15	23	.395	11 1/2
Colorado	15	23	.395	11 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Pittsburgh 8, Washington 5, 10 innings
Atlanta 8, Colorado 1
Arizona 5, Florida 3
Philadelphia 4, Cincinnati 3
Milwaukee 4, Houston 2
St. Louis 3, Chicago Cubs 0
San Diego 2, San Francisco 1
L.A. Dodgers 5, N.Y. Mets 3
Detroit 4, Texas 0
N.Y. Yankees 9, Baltimore 1
Oakland 4, Tampa Bay 1, 11 innings
Boston 2, Toronto 1
Kansas City 6, Cleveland 5
Chicago White Sox 6, Minnesota 2
L.A. Angels 6, Seattle 5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BIG LEAGUE STANDINGS

Ol'Aces	8	3
Hustlers	7	3
Falcons	7	4
Fielders	6	6
D-9ers	3	9
Aztecs	3	9

BELAU MASTERS STANDINGS

Dolphins	5	0
Lancheros	5	1
Salty Boys	3	2
Choll Aces	3	2
Kagman Jack	1	4
Peleliu	1	4
Trubak	0	5

2009 All Schools Track and Field Championships

Far left, Northern Marianas Athletics vice president Lou Wabol gets ready to pull the trigger to start the boys' U8 200m race.

Left, Kagman High School's Eugene Dillay, right, is ahead of MHS' Heartim Williams, center, and Clayton Kenty during the 4x100m relay run in the 2009 All Schools Track and Field Championships held last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Below, Saipan International School's Lani Russell competes in the high jump event.

Whispering Palms' Gabrielle Race covers her ears at the start of the 3,000m race.

Runners in the boys' U10 4 x100m relay race collide.

A Garapan Elementary School student goes all out in the javelin throw.

Above left, a participant in the long jump event has a safe landing.

Above right, one runner runs bare foot, while two others are wearing only their socks, as they race in the rain-soaked track.

Far left, MHS' Clayton Kenty practices for the discuss throw.

Left, Whispering Palms' Jae Ko competes in the boys' U14 shot put event.

Photos and Text By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sponsors line up to help Ron

Ronald Villafria's quest to scale Mt. Fuji a second time is creating a buzz in the local sports community, not to mention much-needed support to the Filipino runner.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Kobe scores 40 as Lakers beat Nuggets

Those wildly inconsistent Lakers showed up for their Western Conference finals opener against Denver and still managed to defend their home court.

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Fielders complete semis cast

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

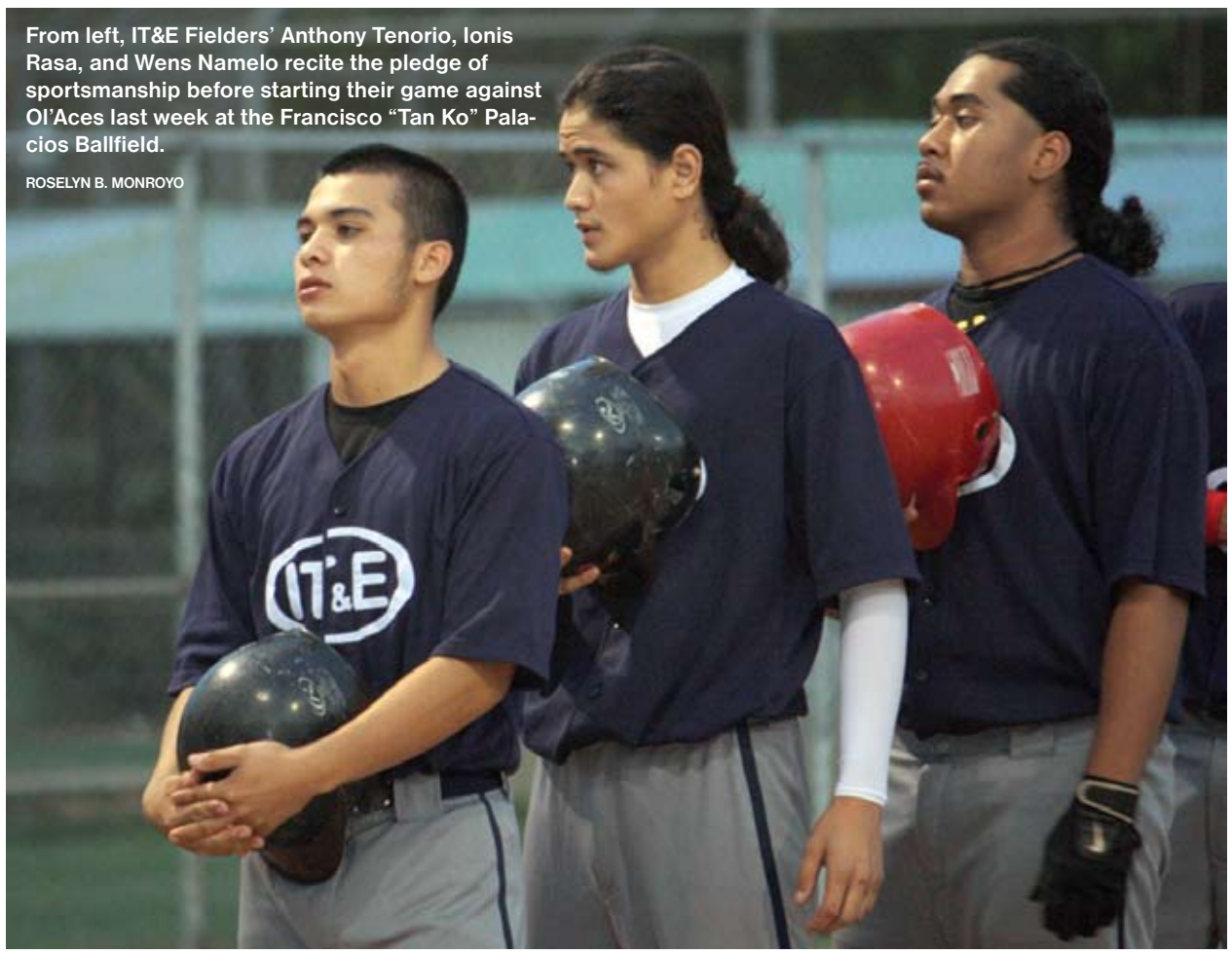
IT&E Fielders recorded back-to-back wins over the weekend at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield to complete the semis cast in the Big League division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball.

Fielders started the weekend with a big 10-5 victory over league-leading Ol'Aces last Saturday.

After being shut out in the first three innings, Fielders found their mark in the fourth inning, scoring four runs, and hung in there in the last two innings to hand Ol'Aces their third loss. Fielders added two more runs in the fifth and closed out with a four-run bottom of the sixth.

Catcher Ben Flores went only 2-for-4 at bat, but made two RBIs, while Wens Namelo, Elton Santos, and Joe Lizama had one RBI apiece.

Juan Iguel and Mario Salas scored Ol'Aces' first two runs at the top of the first on Fielders' error, but the team went cold in the next three innings. Iguel doubled, sending Jimmy Brel home to break Ol'Aces' silence in the fifth inning. Ol'Aces kept their hopes alive with a two-run top of the sixth, but still fell short when their first two batters were beaten to first and the fourth flied out.



From left, IT&E Fielders' Anthony Tenorio, Ionis Rasa, and Wens Namelo recite the pledge of sportsmanship before starting their game against Ol'Aces last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fielders played their last game in the regular season and edged D-9ers, 7-6.

The win gave Fielders a 6-6 record for fourth place in the team standings and booted D-9ers out of the tournament. D-9ers absorbed back-to-back losses, as they bowed to Hustlers last Monday, 4-16.

D-9ers finished the regular season with a 3-9 record, tying Kagman Aztecs for fifth to sixth place in the team standings.

Ol'Aces 7, Aztecs 4

Ol'Aces recovered from their loss to Fielders with a 7-4 triumph over Aztecs last Sunday.

The victory improved Ol'Aces record to 8-3 and strengthened their hold to the top spot. Ol'Aces' last game will be against Hustlers and a win will ensure the former the No. 1 seed in the playoffs.

Aztecs scored only in the first two innings before Ol'Aces tightened up their defense in the last five innings

See FIELDERS on Page 26

Legends move closer to finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Chalan Kanoa Legends survived MDX Armatech's late rally to pull off an 82-74 win in their playoff game in the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court and move a win away from advancing to the finals.

See LEGENDS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
C.K. Legends' Dindo Pablo, right, dribbles past MDX Armatech's Bernard Montano during their playoff game in the Masters division of the Navy Hill caging Monday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Dolphins still perfect in Belau league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The IT&E Dolphins kept their unbeaten record in the 2009 Belau Masters Slow-pitch Softball League following an 11-9 victory over Kagman Jacks last Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Falling behind by six, 0-6, after one and a half innings, the Dolphins turned the table with an eight-run bottom of the second and added three more runs in the next two innings to remain in the lead.

Kagman also combined for three runs in the third and fourth inning, but failed to steal the win when Dolphins shut the Jacks out in the last three innings.

Kagman Jacks dropped to a 1-4 record and is tied for fifth to sixth place with Peleliu. Trubak is at the bottom of the team standings in the seven-squad field with its dismal 0-5 slate.

Lancheros 7, Peleliu 0

MGD Lancheros kept pace with the league-leading Dolphins after shutting out Peleliu, 7-0.

Lancheros improved to a 5-1 slate, half a game behind the Dolphins.

Shortstop Ben Mesa went 2-for-3 at the plate, including a solo homer in the sixth inning. He scored two runs. John Tomokane, Joe Lizama, Bill Aguon, Jack Reyes, and Dimas Omar had one run each.

The best that Peleliu could do in the one-sided game was to have leadoff batter Henry Litulimar reached third base. Litulimar was left stranded to third base, as Peleliu's next three bat-

See DOLPHINS on Page 26

MASC thanks sponsors of spearfishing tourney

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The organizer of the 3rd Annual Saipan Spearfishing Tournament was happy that the competition went without a hitch and all participants came home safe.

Marianas Apnea Spearfishing Club president Morito Asai said while the turnout dropped from 42 last year to 34 last Saturday, he was still content on how the tournament played out.

"As usual everybody come back safe and that's the most important thing. Even though there was rough condition at the back of island, well-experienced boat operators kept everyone out of harm's way. We had 34 divers this year compared to 42 from last year. We had a drop [in participants] because some of the guys are off-island and the partners didn't want to fish with a guy who didn't know how to [do it well]," he said.

Asai also took time to thank the sponsors of the event, namely MARPAC Budweiser, Kashima Kanko Japan, O.ME.R Italy, NTT Docomo Pacific, Waterway Ukraine, Fishing Tackle,

See MASC on Page 26

MARK RABAGO
Participants, organizers, volunteers, and supporters of last Saturday's 3rd Annual Saipan Spearfishing Tournament pose for a group shot.